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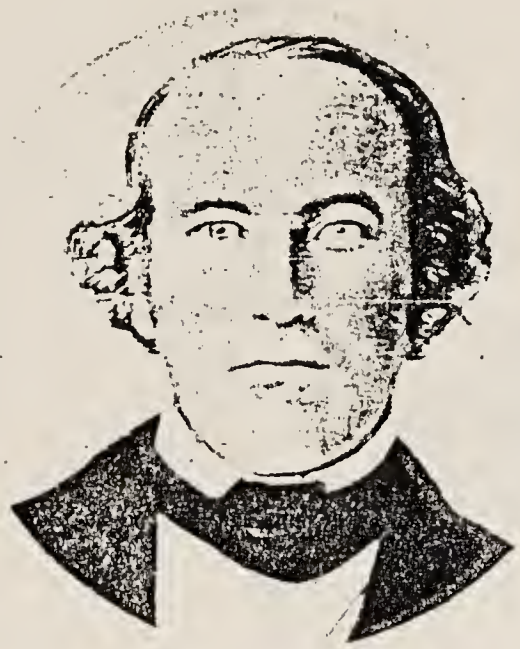
My Great-Grandmother

JUDITH SARGENT GILE

1804 - 1891

Winifred Jewell Harley

1957691

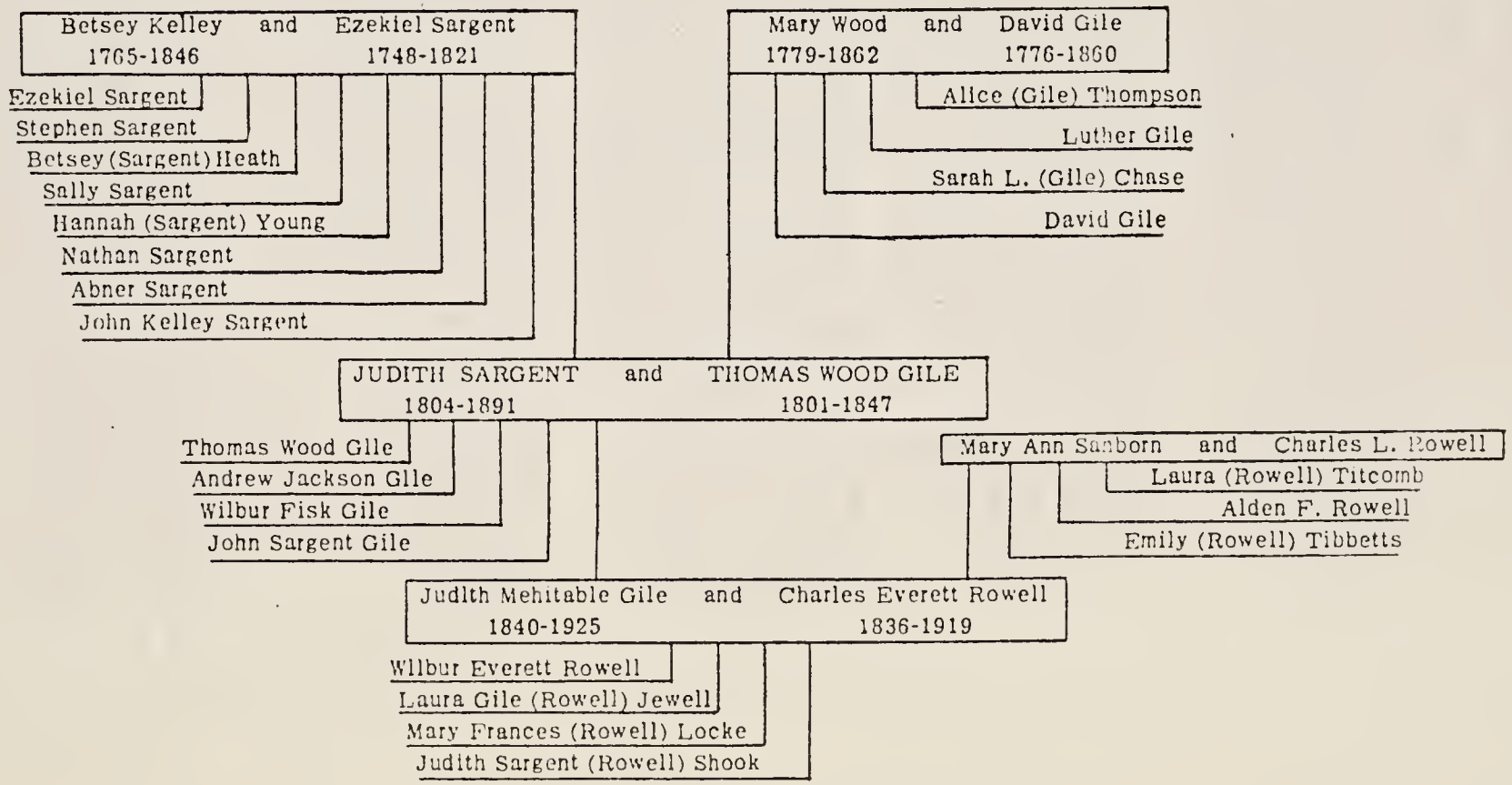


Thomas Wood Gile
1801-1847
About 1840

Judith (Sargent) Gile
1804-1891
About 1840

Rec'd July 21-1977

DIAGRAM showing RELATIONSHIPS
of the GILES, SARGENTS and ROWELLS



JUDITH SARGENT GILE

1804 - 1891

The name of Judith Sargent Gile is not to be found on the pages of history. She and her husband, Thomas Wood Gile, were not known outside the normal circle of their friends and neighbors. They were good, intelligent, ordinary people of a hundred years ago. They are important to me and to their other descendants for the inheritance we received from them.

The Giles, equally with our other great-grandparents passed on to us the genes that brought us our traits of body and brain. And an influence also filters down to us from the lives they lived, and the things they believed in. To many of those who set out to "look up their ancestors", the male line, carrying the family name, seems to hold most appeal. Actually a great number of lines of equal importance genetically converge in our selves.

I feel that - particularly for a woman - the direct female line has an extra interest. The mother affects the child strongly; and many household habits and social attitudes are absorbed by a daughter from her mother, who in turn took them from her mother, and so on. My mother and grandmother are real and familiar to me. Behind them, the women who look over my shoulder became more and more shadowy. I am trying in this paper to make one more generation real to myself and to you.

My great-grandmother died before I was born. But the first years of her life, and the last years, were spent in the town where I later lived. I think I can capture some impression of her from reminiscences I have listened to, diaries and letters I have read, and from the reflection of her I fancy I can catch in my memory of her only daughter, my grandmother.

1804

Judith Sargent was born on the fourth of April in the year 1804, in a sturdy farmhouse which still stands on a little rise overlooking the loop of the road at Birch Meadow. "Birchy Meadow" as they called it, is a section of the present town of Merrimac, Massachusetts, at that time included in the West Parish of Amesbury. She was the ninth, and youngest, in a family of brothers and sisters.

Her father, Ezekiel Sargent, had left the Bear Hill District, home of so many Sargents, and had come to Birch Meadow where he married Betsey Kelley. The Kelley family had been settled in

that neighborhood for several generations. The homestead in which Ezekiel and Betsey Sargent lived had been built in 1740 by a Samuel Kelley, probably a great-uncle of Betsey's. Ezekiel Sargent's descendants later lived there for many years, and it has now belonged for a generation or more to the Carroll Riley family. Ezekiel and his sons worked the hillside farm, and as a secondary occupation he made and burned brick for the building of chimneys and cellar walls in the community.

Here Judith grew up in surroundings that were normal for a small New England farm a hundred and fifty years ago. I like to think of her there, gathering the pussy-willows and the yellow cowslips of early spring; sniffing the hot sweet smell of fresh-cut hay in June; filling her basket with blue-berries for pies, in the summer. I wonder whether there might still have been an occasional bear in the berry pasture. If she herself never saw one, surely the older folks would have told her stories of those they used to see. One of my grandmother's "sayings" - which I am sure she had from her mother - was her exclamation when an article she was hunting for turned up close-by, - "If it had o' been a bear, 'twould ha' bit me!" Fall days at Birch Meadow were colored by wood-smoke, golden-rod and sumac; and there must have been skating at Veale's Pond before the thick snow smothered the world. From her mother Judith Sargent learned the household skills of her time -- cooking, sewing, and knitting, -- perhaps also spinning and weaving and the making of soap and churning of butter.

On Sundays the family loaded themselves into the farm wagon, or in winter into the "pung", and drove down to the services at the "Second Church" at the "Corner", - what is now the Congregational Church at Merrimac. Here the religious teaching the children had had from Betsey, their mother, was repeated and reinforced from the pulpit. There were stern and lengthy exhortations in the morning service and another sermon in the afternoon. Families brought their dinners and made a day of it, visiting during the noon hour with cousins and friends from miles around.

As for schooling, the one-room District School was close by, right at the foot of the little hill where the Sargent house stood. School terms were short, and the teachers changed frequently. But while lacking most of the facilities we take for granted today, the children learned to read, and write and "cipher". There were spelling bees, and there were singing schools, where the whole neighborhood combined culture and sociability.

I feel sure that Judith's name was not pronounced with a long ū, as it would probably be today. The pronunciation I commonly heard 100 years later gave the syllables the values found in the word "pudding". It is safe to say this is how the Sargent's

pronounced it.

1807

Her brother John Kelley Sargent was only two years older than she, and the two children must have been good companions, both in school, and in work and play around the farm. Her older brothers and sisters were pretty well grown up ahead of her. Betsey, the oldest sister, was married to Enos Heath when Judith was about three, and lived near by in a house said to be a former garrison house. When she was ten years old, the second-oldest brother, Stephen married Sally Davis of Plaistow, and they lived across the line in New Hampshire.

1816

Two years after this, the oldest brother, Ezekiel, married Susanna Dow, also of Plaistow, -- it is only four or five miles to the center of Plaistow from Birch Meadow. He stayed on at home and worked with his father on the farm, possibly living in the house next door. Three sons were later born to him and his wife, Darius, Erastus, and Calvin, - all of whom continued to live in Birch Meadow. This same year, Hannah Sargent married Levi Young and went to Haverhill to live.

1820

The middle brothers, Nathan and Abner, did not marry until 1819, and 1820, respectively. Up to then, they either worked at home, or hired out to other farmers not so well blessed with sons.

Sally, who was eleven years older than Judith, had not married; she kept a Journal from which we get some hints concerning the life of her family. The Journal is chiefly devoted to an exposition of Sally's own religious experiences, but between her expressions of soul-searching and self-abnegation, a few details of daily life do creep in. The record begins in 1815, when she was 22 years old, and continues until 1822 shortly before she died. In her opening entry she describes her early Christian training:

> "At my first remembrance I was taught by my mother that there was a future state of punishment and rewards, to one of which I must soon go;.....While my mother instructed me in the goodness of God and my duty toward him she told me I must pray.....When about 12 or 13 my earnestness to become a true friend of the Lord Jesus increased.....This engagedness continued but for a season. When I was about 14 years of age I was much taken up with young company; as I grew older my love for it increased.

I went out evenings in vain company and at my return was filled with disagreeable feelings. I felt a desire to pray, but ... how to pray acceptably after I had come from a dancing company?.....In this situation I remained until my 19th year.....Many private meetings.....wrought many serious impressions on my mind....I (now) spent but few evenings from home except at private meetings and our singing school....."

"At this time I and my brothers and sisters experienced a great trial which no one could realize but ourselves, though the outward circumstances were known to many.....The situation in our family caused it necessary that I should leave my father's family which I did a few days after I was 19 years of age. I then went to live with Mrs. Sargent, whom I considered a pious woman."

There is no clue as to what the family situation was which made her decide to leave home. Neither do we know what "Mrs. Sargent" she went to live with. It may have been Sarah, second wife of Amasa Sargent, brother of Sally's father, who lived at Bear Hill. The diary speaks of her enjoying the social life in "a different part of town" for a while, but she soon decided to "break from her evil ways". She now determined to go away to school:

"Ever since I was 8 or 9 years of age I had an inclination to have a good education, but I knew my parents were not disposed to send me to a publick school so I concluded I would not weary them with requesting it, knowing my older brothers and sisters were just setting out in the world and needed assistance from them. I resolved to go when I could without putting them to any expense. This was the time I contemplated on going."

It is uncertain where she was now getting funds to go away to school. Perhaps she had earned something that year, either by teaching, or by helping in the house. Mrs. Sargent advised against it, but she determined to go to the Academy.

"I went home and was taken very unwell, which continued several days. After I got better I went to Atkinson Academy.....I took no satisfaction in the rooms of mirth but my greatest enjoyments were in meditating on Divine goodness.....A few days before my Quarter was up I was unwell..was under the necessity of sending for my parents to bring me home, which they did and waited on me with tenderness and affection.....I thought it must be my turn was come, that this was my last sickness.... but He was pleased to disappoint my expectations."

In May of 1814 Sally Sargent went to Bradford Academy for a short time, but found that no more to her spiritual taste than Atkinson. Before the term was out she went home, and took a school - presumably in the Bear Hill District, -boarding with her friend "Mrs. Sargent", whose husband had died in the interval. The fall of 1815 she went back to Atkinson Academy for a while. Between terms of study she taught. For a time she had the Birch Meadow School, with her sister Judith (and probably her brother John) among her pupils. In 1816 she taught in Plaistow.

In the fall of 1818 she took "Preceptor Classes" at Atkinson, in preparation for taching more advanced pupils. She says:

> ...."attending the studies of grammar, drawing maps and such branches as are thought necessary for the qualification of an instructress. I am now wholly dependent on my Maker to place me in a school and give me grace to teach my schollars the importance of religion with all the arts and sciences.....which I profess in some degree to understand."

An Academy with "male and female departments" had been established in Amesbury, near Bartlett's Corner. Sally got a job here, and taught the "young ladies" from May to August, 1819. She was much disappointed that she was not to go back the following term; "some unforeseen circumstance took place and frustrated all my future." There followed another illness when it seemed the lung-trouble which had harrassed her for a long time would be fatal. But she recovered.

The Journal does not tell us when Sally did the piece of needlework called "Emblem of Peace" which is now hanging on my wall. It was treasured by Sally's sister Judith all her life and passed on to her daughter, to her granddaughter, and to me. Perhaps this was one of the "arts" she mentions with which an "instructress" must become familiar!

We get a hint from Sally's Journal that on Christmas and Thanksgiving the Sargent household was the scene of family reunions, with the traditional feasting and merry-making, -- rather too much merry-making for Sally's Puritan taste. She protests in the diary that

> ".....the minds of many Christians have been in too great a degree taken from the great mercies and favors which God has bestowed upon us, and devoted to the polite treatment and respect of those who visit us ....."

Thanksgiving had not yet become the fixed November holiday it now

is, for she says:

> "Dec. 31, (1818) Thanksgiving Eve. I have twice this day been with the worshippers of God at his house."

The only direct reference in Sally's Journal to her sister Judith is made in an entry of Sept. 7, 1816. She had felt "very stupid" at the Preparatory Lecture (the evening preceeding the Communion Service) and had felt on returning home that she must have a time of prayer.

> "When I went upstairs I thought I should have opportunity of pouring out my soul to God and ask his forgivness before my little sister would follow; but she immediately came. Then I thought, what shall I do, I cannot go to bed without kneeling before my God, ... But....why are you afraid to pray before your sister, whom you have told to pray, and who has heard many of your prayers in your school? Then I felt encouraged and kneeled down and had a pleasant time at the Throne of Grace."

There is also a letter Sally wrote to Judith from Bradford in December 1820, where she was staying with their brother Nathan and his wife. She gives Judith some pious advice about committing scripture passages to memory, and speaks affectionately of different members of the family. She speaks of having heard her father has been ill.

> "My brother talked of going over to see father after we heard he was sick, but could not cross the river."

(The bridge at Rock's Village had been ruined by ice and was out of use for some years at about this time.)

1821

In January of 1821, Sally visited her home and was much affected by the condition of her father, who had been made helpless by a paralytic stroke a few weeks before, and so remained until he died nine months later. Sally's diary describes her father as being restless, and miserable, keeping his attendants busy changing his position, moving him from bed to chair and back, unable to get comfort and relief, calling for "meat, turnip, pudding, cider, water, hot coffe, etc." Sally returned to her school in Bradford until August.

But for long months Judith, now 16 years old, carried her

share of the burden involved in caring for such a patient. Her brothers were all married except John K. Nathan had been married two years to Elizabeth Kent, of West Newbury, and it was in their home in South Bradford that Sally was now living. Abner had married Lavena Chase of Amesbury and was nearer home. Ezekiel, the eldest still lived next door, and ran the farm with John's help. They would have lent support, but the nursing must have fallen heavy on Judith and her mother.

1821

After Ezekiel Sargent died, Betsey Sargent had three children left with her, John, Judith, and Sally, (who died a year later). Whether she and the children continued to live at the Birch Meadow homestead, or whether they spent some time across the river with Nathan we do not know.

Neither do we know any details of Judith's schooling. How many "terms" or "quarters" had she attended the Birch Meadow District School? Had she had any further schooling after that? There was an Academy at Amesbury Mills, where her sister had taught for one quarter. If Judith went there, or anywhere else away from home there is not any record of it. Nor do we know anything about her ever having taught school herself. I think it quite possible that she did teach somewhere - it seems to "run in the family".

She was in South Bradford (later Groveland) in 1823. Whether she went simply on a visit, or to help in his family when the first child was born, or whether she, with her mother and brother John went there to live, we do not know. She and John may have gone to the Academy there for a while. Whatever it was that brought her there, it was a momentous move, for there she met my great-grandfather, Thomas Wood Gile.

1823

Thomas Gile was the son of David Gile and Mary (Wood) Gile, both of them descendents of some of the very first settlers in that part of the country. Thomas had been born in what is now Groveland, on March 21, 1801. He had worked on his father's farm, and had learned the shoe-maker's trade. He had improved whatever opportunities he had had for an education, and had probably had a term or two at the "Merrimack Academy" which had been opened in that town a few years before. Thomas was a serious-minded youth. He had early joined the Congregational Church in Groveland. We do not know just when or how he became interested in the Methodist Society down river at West Newbury. But he did become a member there. A hint in a letter of Sally's suggests that Nathan Sargent and his wife may have been attendants at the Metho-

dist Church in West Newbury, which had been his wife's home. If Judith went to Church with them, Thomas Gile probably appeared an outstanding young man. They were married on Nov. 6, 1823.

1826

Judith's first pregnancy ended with a still-born male child. But on March 2, 1826 a son was born who was named Thomas Wood Gile, after his father, and his father's grandfather, Thomas Wood, a fifer in the Second Bradford Company, who saw short and undistinguished service in 1775. From a scrap of paper preserved with names of towns and dates, apparently compiled to show all the moves they had made, we get the information that in 1826 and 27 Judith and Thomas Gile were living in Dover, N. H. Probably it was a job that took them there with their infant son. But the next year they were back in Groveland. Andrew Jackson Gile was born to them on Sept. 22, 1828.

1831

Thomas Wood Gile was more and more taking an active part in the services of the Methodist Church. In 1831 he was made a Local Preacher. Probably he preached in his own village, perhaps in more than one "meeting". I have a feeling that he got substantial encouragement in his evangelistic work from his wife. Their devotion to Methodism is apparent in the name they chose for the third son, who was born Jan. 4, 1832. Whereas the first had received a "family" name, and the second the name of the 7th President of the United States, they called this one after a great leader and educator of the Methodist Church, Wilbur Fisk Gile.

1833

When the time approached for the convening of the 1833 session of the New England Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Thomas made inquiries about joining the Conference. There is a letter from B. F. Lambard, the Presiding Elder (now called District Superintendent), written in March, encouraging him. They would be needing more pastors, and if Thomas Gile arranged to get suitable recommendation from the West Newbury Quarterly Conference he might well hope to be accepted. He concludes, "The Lord nerve your arm, and enable you in drawing the bow to do great execution."

It was not so easy as he had hoped to break into the ministerial profession! In June after the Conference Thomas Gile received disappointing news from Mr. Lambard:

"Dear Brother: I presented your recommendation to the Conference, but the consideration that you had some family, and that a number of single men were to be introduced, was considered a reason for my withdrawing your recommendation, that I might employ you (as a Supply pastor) on my district. I have reserved a good appointment for you, in which I believe you will do and get good, temporal as well as spiritual, & by another Conference I think you will go in well, as more of the preachers will become acquainted with you. I want you to go to Abington, where you will be cordially received & towards $200 raised for you. Let me depend on you as I neglected to fill it up, having my mind fixed on you.

Yours affectionately, B. F. Lambard

P. S. I think you had better go & visit them before you take your family."

Although the postscript sounds a bit dubious, the Gile family did move to Abington, and for the next three years, Thomas preached on trial there, and at Pembroke, and North Dighton. In 1836 he was admitted to full Conference membership, and appointed to Truro on Cape Cod.

1836

For the rest of his life, Thomas Gile, like all Methodist preachers of that day was moved from charge to charge, sometimes staying a year in each place, sometimes, two. At each move their household goods had to be carefully packed into trunks, chests, and barrels. Bedding, pots and pans, brooms and tubs were packed and unpacked. The white iron-stone dishes embossed with Lily-of-the-Valley sprigs, and the beautiful pink luster tea-set had to be packed with special care. All these, and the slender library accumulated by the young preacher, went with them from place to place, and a strange parsonage became home when these familiar things were unpacked there.

To reach their new appointment on the Cape the Giles probably travelled from Pembroke to Boston by stage and rail, and went from there to the Cape on a sailing packet. This must have been an exciting prospect for the three boys. When Judith Gile described the trip, in later years, she told of a sail across Massachusetts Bay rough enough to make her desperately seasick. I imagine her retching, weeping, clutching five-year-old Wilbur to keep him safe, and enduring some of the most miserable hours of her thirty-odd years. Worst of all was the thought that if she was ever to see her loved family, back in the Merrimack Valley, she would have to .

repeat this awful experience of a sea-voyage! Doubtless her husband was a good sailor, and with Thomas and Andrew at his heels, tramped the deck enjoying every minute of it!

Like all voyages, it came to an end, and they finally reached their new home at Truro. Even by comparison with her own home at "Birchy Meadow", I think the hill-top at Truro must have seemed a pleasant place to live. The Church, which raised its white spire on the very top of the hill, burned, I believe, in 1939. Nearby, under the brow, and on the side facing the bay the white parsonage is still standing. Here the force of the Atlantic gales is somewhat tempered. Here they stayed for two years.

Letters kept them in touch with the relatives at home. One letter from Judith's next-older brother, John Kelley Sargent, says:

Bradford 22 December 1836

"Dear Brother and Sister,

We have neglected writing for want of time and news. Our friends are all as well as usual so far as I have any knowledge. I expect the news you would be, most interested in is the state of religion. The Methodist Society here held a protracted meeting in November in which we hope the result will be good ..... there are now some we trust seeking the Lord sorrowing for their sins which we hope will have repentance that needeth not to be repented of ....

"We want to see you, but fear we should be seasick. I once went as far as Hampton Beach. I thought if I could get off the sea I would keep off. I hardly think we shall go, if we do we shall probably go the last of May or the first of June. We hope the next move you make will bring you nearer us, but if not we should feel that He who overrules all things doeth it for the best good of all that love him. We wish you to write often, we want to hear from you if we can't see you. We hope it will be so you can visit us the coming summer if not before. Dear Sister we want you to tell us how you enjoy your health this season and what effect the ride on the sea had on you, and how you are pleased with your situation and how the little boys grow and prosper..... We have had no sleighing this season, the ground bare, ice missing in the river.....The shoe business is a little duller.....I still work at the business and at the same place I have for years.....The folks at Bradford are wide awake for digging coal (hard wood here is from 7 to 8 dollars a cord)..... are now about forming a coal company. Our most influential men think they shall succeed in finding good coal. I remain your sincere brother and friend, John K. Sargent."

1836

The writer, Judith's brother John, lived for some years in Bradford (later Groveland) near his brother Nathan. For the time being he had left his father's farm and worked at making shoes. This letter refers to a Methodist Society in Bradford, and the Giles received reports of it from other correspondents, also. The Church was organized just about the time Thomas Gile left that town, and must have been in part the fruit of his work as a Local Preacher. The Church had its own pastor for several years, then was joined with the society at West Newbury, and after a few years more, both Churches faded out.

The coal project described in John Sargent's letter sounds very improbable! But a friend who looked up the Haverhill Gazettes of that year for me, finds the interest in digging for coal was mentioned several times in December and January, 1836-7. Some men from Rowley dug enthusiastically at a place called "Dow's Mills." And that was all!

During their years at Truro, the Giles came to love the hardy sea-faring folk there; and letters received later from the Truro people show that the Giles were well liked. Their chief correspondent was a Mr. H. Gross, the local postmaster, who was making use of his franking privilege when he wrote them.

1838

At Conference time in 1838 they were moved again. The appointment this year was to Glastonbury (or Eastbury) Conn., near Hartford. An old freight bill gives us a bit of information about this move. Items shipped from Truro to Hartford were listed as follows:

"six dry barrells; five boxes; one chest; one axe, floor brush and bed-cord; one bag of feathers; one bundle of books."

The charge was: "

From Truro to Boston by "Post-Boy	$2.34
Trucking from "Post-Boy" to Planter"	.75
Freight from Boston to Hartford on the schooner "Planter"	4.50
Total	$7.59"

There is no word to indicate whether the family travelled the same route, by boat; or whether they may have travelled from Boston to Hartford by rail. In either case Judith must have nerved herself for the sail across the bay to Boston. She well knew how to summon strength for whatever must be done!

1839

Next year they moved to the Chatham Circuit, which included five small churches ranging down the Connecticut valley from East Hampton to Lyme. It must have been a discouraging prospect for a pastor to try to supply leadership for so many scattered groups. Then, too, there was disagreement as how much attention each church should have. He wrote his Presiding Elder about his problem, requesting that another preacher be assigned to take part of the burden. The answer, from Rev. A. W. Swinerton says that the previous year all five of the churches together were able to raise only $398.24 for the support of their pastor. So how could they hope to raise enough to pay two ministers? This, he seemed to feel was an unanswerable agrument. He added that Brother Gile should not be coerced by his Church Stewards in the matter of how he divided his time among the Churches. He was to consider himself answerable, - first, to God; and second, to the Annual Conference. And, proceed to do the best he could with his five churches!

At least part of the year they were living in the village of Chatham, now Colchester. There on January 5, 1840 my grandmother was born, and named Judith - for her mother, and Mehitable- for a great aunt in the Wood family.

1840

When he left home for Annual Conference in July of this year, Thomas Gile started out from Chatham on foot. Doubtless he did this partly for the sake of economy, partly for the novel experience. He was due to preach on Sunday at Brooklyn, Conn., about twenty miles cross country from his home, and there was probably no way to reach there by public transportation. There is nothing anywhere to indicate that the Giles owned a horse, though to get around the Chatham Circuit, it would seem to have been a necessity. I quote from his letter written to his wife after he had arrived at Lowell where the Conference was held that year:

My Dear Judith,

.....the day I started from home, walked to Willimantic, the next day walked to Windham and as my feet had become very sore I was glad to get into the stage there and ride to Brooklyn.....found Mr. Coggswell's family and they were very glad to see me. Preached there and at Plainfield on the Sabbath, in going to Plainfield was thrown from the waggon but the Lord gave his angels charge concerning me.....I was not injured. Monday Capt. Coggswell carried me to the depot at Killingly and stepping into the cars I was soon in Boston and

the same night in Lowell .....am to preach at Haverhill next Sabbath, but whether I shall see any of our folks or not is uncertain.....Love to all the children and kisses for Judith Mehitable. don't look for me until I come.

Yours in the tender bonds of conjugal love,

Tho. W. Gile.

The letters of this period were folded to about the size of our present day letters, and "backed" with the address to which it was to go, without any envelope. Sometimes they were sealed with sealing-wax. On some is a rubber-stamp post-mark, with place and date. In place of a stamp is usually an ink scribble - occasionally a stamped note "5 cents paid", or "10 cents paid".

From the letter quoted above, and from some partial records of the New England Conference, the salaries Thomas Gile received at his various Churches seem to have averaged less than $400. per year. It was about this time that Thomas wrote a series of articles which were published in that good Methodist paper, Zion's Herald. He wrote with feeling, and with first-hand knowledge, about the duty of Methodists to raise more for the support of their pastors! He was particularly critical of the lack of system and zeal among the Stewards responsible for raising the alloted amounts for paying the preacher.

From the samples that we have of Thomas Gile's writing - letters, printed communications, and sermons - he appears to have been intelligent and well informed. He probably preached well. We have a handful of half-sheets with sermon outlines which he had made and filed away. He followed the tenets of his Church in speaking out strongly against intemperance and other social abuses. That he could hold his own in discussions with his fellow preachers is illustrated by the following letter. There had been a difference of opinion about the source of a certain quotation, and a neighboring pastor, after "looking it up" at home writes this apology to Thomas Gile:

1841

Holliston, Dec. 21, 1841

Dear Brother,

Although your letter reminded me of an egregious blunder I was really gratified to receive it. For this reason. It affords me an opportunity to address you on this very matter. I wanted to apologize to you for my pertinacity; for I was ashamed to think how I persisted in declaring it was Voltaire, when from your age and experience it was presumptive at least, that you knew better than I did about it.

When I returned home, without once doubting my correctness about the matter, I turned to my "Index Rerum", and lo! it was Rosseau. The next time that you remind me of an error, brother Gile, I'll promise more deference to you and not be so positive. And I hope that you will, on the very first occasion that offers, favor me with any correction you find me in need of.

..... Yours truly

Lucius C. Matlock.

(Note: The "Index Rerum", mentioned in the letter was an indexed Blank book, intended for noting down where a quotation or reference might be found when needed. I now have the one that belonged to T. W. Gile.)

Beside the articles published in the Zion's Herald, we have clippings of several of Thomas Gile's contributions to the Westfield Newsletter. Several of these deal emphatically with the evils of intemperance. Along with his own contributions he had kept a clipping signed "A. B." which had caught his fancy. It is a bit of "science-fiction" aimed at the institution of slavery. A man who visited the moon found the inhabitants to be creatures with green skin, and they used the white-skinned earthlings as slaves considering them as inferior beings on account of their color. That he kept this, indicates his stand on the matter of slavery.

His strong feeling against the use of alcohol is fully set forth in a letter of his written to a tavern-keeper in 1844, while they were living in the West Parish of Westfield. He had apparently received an invitation from this man to take part in some celebration, perhaps a Fourth-of-July affair, and had declined it.

"Letter to Jose H. Loomis:

My Dear Sir: I have just rec'd your letter animadverting upon my refusal to participate in the proposed celebration at West Parish. In answer I would say that I have uniformly declined such invitations since I have been in the ministry, except the celebrations were decidedly of a religious or temperance character. I have had invitations beside yours this year, all of which I decline.

One of my reasons is that in my opinion such convocations are decidedly injurious to the public morals, expecially when they are assembled at places where Ardent Spirits are sold, the amount of injury which will result from the assembling of our youth at a Rum Tavern on that day will be known only in eternity. Undoubtedly some on that day at your bar will take the first step in the drunkard's course

to ruin. I cannot encourage them to go where they will be tempted to their destruction. My dear sir, you have found me always ready to unite in any enterprise for the mental and moral improvement of my fellow men, and you are mistaken if you think it is from an unwillingness to associate with my fellow citizens, or from any want of respect for yourself that I declined your invitation."

In two more paragraphs he continues to protest against "this wretched traffic", signing himself, "Your friend, Tho. W. Gile".

In the years intervening, between 1840 and 1844, they had lived in Three Rivers; in Belchertown; and in Wales, - all in Massachusetts. They now spent two years in Westfield West Parish, and I judge this the happiest and most satisfactory period they had had. Here Thomas was in touch with the affairs of a larger town and this was enjoyable after a long series of charges in small villages. There was an Academy located here, and they found congenial friends. Westfield friends are mentioned in Judith's diary in later years.

1843-4

During Thomas Gile's pastorate, two members of his congregation who were members of the Baptist Church at Southwick wrote asking for a letter of dismissal so they might join the West Parish Methodist Church. Their request was summarily refused:

"To Mrs. Maritta Cowles: At a meeting of the Baptist church held for business Saturday March 22, 1845, the following preamble and resolution were unanimously adopted: Whereas Sister Maritta Cowles has forsaken us, and united with the Methodist Episcopal Church with which we are not in Church fellowship, Therefore Resolved, That we withdraw the bond of Church fellowship from her as a disorderly walker. By order and in behalf of the Church, Euouch Root, Clerk."

I understand this strict denial of "Church fellowship" continued to be characteristic of the Baptist denomination for a long time.

1845

At the end of the two years they had to leave Westfield and their friends. Thomas Gile was appointed to a circuit of three churches near Athol. They lived at North New Salem, and Thomas was not happy about it. He wrote a protest, and received an answer from his Presiding Elder, urging him to be patient, and "we will see what can be done".

We do not know how many times Judith Gile had visited her people in Amesbury and Groveland in these years. It was usually her duty to stay at home during her husband's annual trips to Conference. Her brother's letter indicates that she did go home in the summer of 1845. Her mother died the following year, so she may have been there again.

1846

A letter from John Kelley Sargent, who was born in 1802, to his sister, Judith S. Gile, who was living in New North Salem, Mass.:

"Amesbury, Jan. 1846

Dear Brother and Sister, It have been a long time since I have been thinking of writing to you. I have a good deal to do and nobody with me.....Mother remains with us her health is about the same as it was when you were here. She sends much love to you. (Betsey Sargent was now eighty-one) We have been blest with unusual health..... Jan. 8, I called at your fathers (David and Mary Wood Gile had at some time moved from Groveland to Plaistow) they were all well, your friends are all well at Bradford so far as I know.....

Capt. Daniel Parker, son Warren and his youngest sister, and Eliza Mitchell died the past fall of typhus fever. Our old acquaintances are fast going home. Soon we may be called to follow though now in health.

We are witnessing continual changes in the things of this world, twenty years ago we knew little or nothing about Railroads, now there is a fair prospect of a Railroad commencing at Amesbury Mills and passing the south side of Kimball's Pond (Lake Attitash) up through West Amesbury Corner (now Merrimac Square) and between Long Hill and Red Oak Hill and across the upper part of Birch Meadow, then north of Brandy Brown through the valley to the south part of Newtown (Newton, N. H.) to strike the Maine Railroad. If this is done it will come as near us as I should wish to have it. We may use it for a foot-path to Meeting if nothing more, if it should be our lot to live to see it.....

Though we have had many deaths the past year yet we have many things to be thankful for, there have been I think, sixteen new members added to the Church the past year. The Society are please with our Minister, it is now a growing Society. They continue to build and settle in at the

Corner, so it is now quite a village. If they improve in piety as fast as in population they will soon be a happy people. We have frequent Meetings in addition to our Sabbath day meetings which are well attended.....

This winter I find no time to make shoes as Mother is with us we have her to take care of, her wood to cut and fire to take care of as well as our own; my cattle to attend and go to Haverhill once a week as I have done for some years (twice a week in summer) What little time I have left I assist my wife a little. Our two oldest children goes to school. They like very well..... They have not forgot you and your visit last June. they often speak of their little Cousins. We should be glad to visit you but see no prospect of it this year. We want to hear from you as often as you can find time to write, and see you as soon as you can make it convenient to come.....

..... From Your Brother,

John K. Sargent

The railroad he mentions in this letter never materialized; thirty years later a branch line joined Merrimac to the through line at Newton, but it did not come very close to Birch Meadow, and John K. Sargent was not alive to see it.

Moving from parsonage to parsonage, the Gile children got their education in a succession of village schools. We may well imagine that when Thomas Gile felt they were in need of it, he could supplement their schooling by some private instruction at home. My grandmother used to tell us one story in which a schoolhouse figured. When she, little Judith Mehitable, was too young to go to school, she stood in the parsonage yard one day, looking down the road to the schoolhouse where she could see the children playing in the schoolyard. Finally she squirmed under the fence, dragging her rag-doll and trotted down the street to join them. When she found her twelve-year-old brother Wilbur among his playmates, she held the doll up to him begging, "Wi'bie, kiss it!" Of course what he did was to march the little run-away straight back to her mother.

I suppose they all completed an average Grammar school education. The letters they wrote in later years are literate and intelligent. With their father trying to support a family of seven on a salary of $300, the older boys, as they left school began to work. It was natural that they should take jobs and earn something as soon as possible, perhaps as young as 13 or 14. Sometimes they may have earned money by working for farmers or store-keepers in the country towns where they lived. Thomas had been making use of the skill he had learned in his youth in the shoe-maker's trade. He probably made the shoes for his own family, and perhaps for sale.

And he taught his sons how to make shoes.

A letter from Judith Sargent Gile during a visit to Andrew who was sick at Eastbury (Glastonbury) while Judith Mehitable was still an infant, (1841?) indicates that Andrew was working at some job away from home, - and he would have been less than fourteen at that time. In 1846, when the family was stationed at Charleton, Andrew worked making shoes and he stayed on there after the family moved.

Andrew's older brother Thomas, Jr. knew the shoe-making work, also. At some point in his life, having been advised by a doctor to find a job that would keep him out of doors, he equipped himself with a peddler's pack and tramped the country-side supplying the house-wives with small wares. A part of his equipment was a small pair of scales, which may have been used to check the weight of the coins he received. Wilbur was spoken of as working in 1847 when he would have been fifteen. They all knew how to work, and it was expected of them.

1847

Judith Gile's parsonage life came to its conclusion at Lunenburg, Mass. The appointment started propitiously enough in the summer of 1847. During the Conference session she and the younger children had been visiting in Groveland. Thomas Gile received his appointment and went ahead to Lunenburg. He wrote his wife telling her about the new home, -- there was a new parsonage, just now being plastered; there was a garden in which he was already busy.

He directs her to come to join him there. She is to take the "cars" (short for steam-cars, as they called the railroad trains) in Haverhill. At Boston, cross from the Boston-Maine depot to the Fitchburg Railroad depot in Charlestown. "You can engage a carriage for 50 cents if you bargain with the driver before starting." She was not able to come on the day he suggested, for the little Judith was sick. But soon after she did follow his instructions and reached her new home comfortably. Thomas had been busy wielding a paint-brush to make the house attractive, and was happy to have his family with him again.

After they were well settled at Lunenburg, on July 1, Thomas Gile wrote to his son, Thomas about their location. He told him that Wilbur is working "within half a mile of us", and Andrew still at his work at Charleton. He addressed the letter to Wayland, but says he is not sure where to reach Thomas. (This uncertainty may indicate that it was at this time Thomas was moving about with his peddler's pack.) He urges his son to come to Lunen-

burg to visit them. (He was good at planning trips for people!) Thomas was to leave his work at noon, walk the eight or ten miles to Concord, where he could take the "cars" at a quarter before six, and for a .60-fare reach Lunenburg "before sunset". A carriage at the depot would bring him the four miles to the parsonage (in style!) for twenty-five cents.

Perhaps Thomas did go to see his folks in Lunenburg on the Fourth of July, and then went back to his job, whatever it was. If he did we hope they had a pleasant holiday together, for his next visit that fall was not a happy one. On Sept. 3, his father wrote to Andrew in Charleton:

> "My Dear Son, I am sorry to have to inform you that Thomas is very sick. He returned from where he had been at work two weeks ago yesterday, and had been unwell a week then. He did not go out doors after he came home. We have no hope of his recovery. We want to see you very much, and hope you can come and see us, and see him if possible while he is with us. Your way from Worcester would be in the Fitchburg stage; on Mondays Wednesdays and Fridays it leaves Worcester at about 11 forenoon, and on the other days of the week early in the morning. Your best way would be to leave the stage at Leominster as you will be as near there as at Fitchburg, Mother sends her love. Affectionately your Father, Thos. W. Gile."

1847

Thomas had come home ill with typhoid fever. The family were fearful that he would not recover. Andrew doubtless did come home on a visit to see his brother. Then Thomas rallied. But while he was still sick his father came down with the fever. Neighbors took little John, and cared for him. Judith Gile and her seven-year-old daughter worked at home, caring for the patients through the long dragging weeks. Young Thomas slowly improved, but for forty-nine-year-old Thomas Wood Gile it was a losing battle. Judith Mehitable helped her mother to wait on him, and sat patiently by his bed reading to him in his weakness. On October seventh he died, commending his family to God's care. In the fashion of kindly village people the parishioners did all that they could to help the bereaved family of the pastor who had served them such a few weeks.

His obituary in the Minutes of the New England Conference says among other things:

> "Brother Gile was ardently attached to the economy, doctrines and discipline of the church of his mature choice. This attachment enabled him to endure patiently the

sacrifices incident to his itineracy, though on account of a numerous family and the feebleness of societies among whom he labored, he was at times under the necessity to work with his own hands, ministering to his own wants and to those of his own house."

The notice in the Worcester Herald and Journal, written by J. Porter says of him:

"He was a sound theologian, a good preacher, an excellent pastor, and a useful man." Also, he was "a man of common-sense, sound piety, and considerable information."

1847

Worn by the long period of nursing her son and her husband, and by the shock of her loss, Judith Sargent Gile stayed on in the Lunenburg parsonage during the winter. Her son Thomas was still weak from his long sickness and needed rest and care. There were the usual legal formalities to be attended to. She was appointed guardian of the two younger children. Andrew was near enough to come to visit them. After one visit, he wrote his mother as follows:

"Had a good seat on the stage all the way home..... Mr. Richards gives me 19cts for welted shoes...only one row of pegs..... The Church is not as good as when Father was here."

He tells of getting thrown out of the wagon when going to deliver his shoes. And he has decided not to go to the dancing school which was to be held there.

"I have got all the letters saved that Father wrote me, and do often sit down and read them."

Three Lunenburg neighbors were appointed to make an inventory of Thomas Gile's estate. They found the household furnishings, and other personal property to be worth about $175. In addition there were Savings Bank deposits, and notes payable to the amount of $675., which indicates that in spite of his meager income, Thomas Gile had been able to keep something put aside for the "rainy day". The Inventory was as follows:

Oct. 27, 1847

Inventory of the Estate of Thomas W. Gile, late of Lunenburg

1 Bureau	$ 5.00	
1 Bed, beding and stead	16.	in front chamber
1 do do	6.	in back chamber
1 Crib bed	1.50	
1 Bed, Beding and Stead	10.	in bedroom below
6 pr Sheets and Pillow case	4.20	
1 pr blankets	2.00	
6 window curtains	.50	
Bed Comforter & Quilt	1.00	
1 Table	.50	
6 Chairs	1.00	
1 Settee Cradle	1.00	
1 airtight stove	3.00	
1 Cook stove	3.00	
1 Table	2.50	
2 Looking glasses	2.75	
1 Carpet	5.00	
1 do	2.00	
1 Timepiece	2.50	
1 Watch	4.00	
Lot of crockery & glass	6.00	
" " knives and forks	1.00	
" " silver spoons	3.00	
" " tinware	2.00	
" " woodenware	.75	
" " apples	6.00	
" " potatoes	2.50	
1 Brass kettle	1.00	
1 wood saw, ax & hoe	1.00	
1 set flat irons	.37	
1 keg	.25	
1 trunk	2.00	
The Library	50.	
Wearing apparel	25.	
1 Note signed by Lucius Cowles	217.	
Interest on abv	18.42	
Note signed by Darius	100.	
Sargent: Interest	1.50	
Deposit Book of the Haverhill Savings Bk	200.	
Interest	8.25	
Deposit Book of Springfield Insitution for Savings	73.	
Interest	6.84	

Deposit Book of Fitchburg Savings Bank	45.
Cash	4.
	$848.33

(Signed) Thomas Billings
Varnum Ball
John Heath

As a tangible, and practical evidence of their love and sympathy, the women of the "Ladies' Aid" -- fore-runner of our Women's Society of Chrisitan Service-- pieced a quilt for Judith Gile that fall. Judging from what was listed in the Inventory, another bed-covering was a gift to be appreciated. The women put their bright calico pieces together with neat stitches. The center of the quilt was a large square with a sunburst in the middle. The rest of the quilt is a pattern of patch-work squares, and in the center of each square, a plain piece of muslin on which Scripture texts and the names of the makers were written, in indelible ink. The quilt is still intact, somewhat faded and stained, but with most of the names still legible. Some sixty women proved the warmth of their affection by their signatures and texts like these:

> "The Lord lift up his countenance upon thee and give thee peace. Elizabeth G. Proctor." and "The Lord is a stronghold in day of trouble, and He knoweth them that trust in Him. Fanny F. Adams."

This quilt is being given by Frances Rowell Locke to her granddaughter, Frances Bennett Laing.

1848

Finally in late March, Judith Gile and her children, - Thomas, Wilbur, Judith and John, packed their belongings once more, and took leave of their friends in Lunenburg, to return to Essex County. Whether Andrew gave up his job to go with them, or whether he continued to work at Charleton for a while is not certain.

From this point on, Judith Gile kept a diary which helps us in trying to picture her life. Her entries are brief, and were made only when she felt she had something worth recording. They are unemotional, even when she was making note of emotional experiences. Chiefly the entries are of three sorts: (1) notes about her household and children; (2) recording of the death of relatives, neighbors, and of newsworthy characters; (3) news of a public nature.

The diary begins with the start of a new period of Judith Gile's life:

"Mar. 28, 1848 We moved from Lunenburg to East Bradford in the house of my brother N(athan) Sargent.

Apr. 22. Mr. Thomas Balch brought the remains of my dear husband from Lunenburg, where he died the 7th Oct. 1847, and buried him in East Bradford Cemetery where we had purchased a lot."

Mr. Balch was a neighbor and custodian of the cemetery. His bill includes $5.00 for horse and wagon; $3.00 for three days labor; $2.00 for expenses (on the road); and $1.00 for a box. In January, Judith Gile had paid for an Italian obelisk, from F. A. Brown of Haverhill, the sum of $60.00; and later she brought 72 feet of cast-iron fence for $90.00. All these receipts are preserved. For the rest of her life she visited the cemetery lot at intervals.

"Apr. 25 I received $7.69 from the Conference, and $50. from the Preachers' Aid Society. .....

Dec. 25 Judith (aged 8) is sick. The doctor says she has a fever.

Feb. 19, 1849 We moved to Aunt (Mehitable Wood) Foster's.

Feb. 25 Wilbur (aged 17) is taken sick with the measles.

Mar. 18 Wilbur is sick with lung fever. Judith and John (aged 7) are sick with measles."

1849

It cost less to live than it does a hundred years later, but for some years while the younger children were still small, there must have been very little cash. If the "Preachers' Aid" gave her fifty dollars a year that helped some. Her brother Nathan furnished them housing for a while, and in one letter she speaks of borrowing from him.

Her older sons were already wage-earners before they returned to Groveland. They knew how to make shoes and would have no trouble finding that kind of work there. "Shoe-manufactory" was by this time an important industry in the Merrimac Valley. Farmers and housewives worked at it during their slack season, either at their homes or in the shops. Like many other women, Judith Gile sewed slippers to bring in a little cash. Perhaps her financial situation was not worse than during the parsonage years when the children were all small.

There is evidence that Andrew was the most restless, independent, or venturesome of the brothers. Ever since they had lived by the sea in Truro he had wanted to go on a voyage. Some years before this the question had been raised, and a friend in Truro had advised against it. The life at sea was hard, even for the men accustomed to it, and she did not think it was suitable for Andrew. Now he was still hankering for the experience and now he was of age. He made a voyage in 1849, and again in 1851. I wish we knew whether he travelled to Truro and went from there with some of his old friends.

1849

"June 2, 1849 Andrew left home to go to Labrador a-fishing.

Sept. 1 Andrew came home, had a prosperous voyage.

Sept. 17 Bro. Orin Jones of Westfield called on us, told us of the sudden death of Bro. Lucas (Lucius) Cowles which was caused by cutting his thumb, he was in great distress 4 hours and died."

This item is of interest because in the inventory of the estate there was a note signed by Lucius Cowles for something over two hundred dollars.

We do not know whether the third son, Wilbur Fiske Gile had ever worked at shoe-making, or what kind of work he had done up to this time. Now he decided he wanted to become a school teacher. The diary records the different schools in which he taught, - a term here and a term there. He made good as a teacher, and his moves soon took him to better jobs than the one-room District Schools. By 1855 he was teaching in the West Cambridge (now Belmont) Grammar school, and from there he went to be principal of the Grammar School in South Lawrence.

"Dec. 3, 1849 Wilbur commenced his first school, in Bradford Dist. No. 3 in the house that his father preached his first sermon in.

Jan. 21, 1850 I wrote to Mr. Wm. C. Brown of Boston, sent him two new subscriptions for the Mother's Assistant.

Mar. 19 East Bradford has taken the name of Groveland.

Mar. 20 Wilbur started for Westfield.

Mar. 29 Wilbur came home."

1850

Did Wilbur, perhaps, make the trip in connection with the money Mr. Cowles had owed? Was it a friendly visit to a family in which there was an eligible young lady? If this was it he was disappointed, for:

"May 21 Sister Lucretia Cowles of Westfield writes that Mary was married the first day of May to Mr. Ansel Gridley.

July 4 I had Judith's teeth cleaned, paid $1.00, done well.

Aug. 29 Moved to E. P. Atwood's house, pay $35.00 a year."

They had moved several times, staying with relatives, and were now renting for themselves. When we drove through Groveland when I was a child my grandmother used to point out to me a small house where they had lived. It was set close to the road on a narrow lot where a street branched off the highway at an angle.

"Sept. 16 I was at the funeral of Mrs. Betsey M. Haskell of Amesbury."

This was a niece, daughter of her brother Abner.

"Oct. 10 I received $25. from the P. A. Society.

Nov. 4 Wilbur commenced teaching in West Newbury...

April 14, 1851 Wilbur commenced teaching in N. Danvers.

Apr. 16 Thomas bought the pew that Mr. Rufus Hovey (who had died in December) used to own for $8.25.

Apr. 17 We have had the most severe storm two days past that has been for a great many years. Minot's Ledge lighthouse on the shore of Cohasset was destroyed.

June 4 Andrew started for Labrador, expects to return in 3 mo."

1851

In April Andrew had had a letter from his brother Thomas begging him not to go to sea this summer. He had written:"

"Mother will feel so bad. But stay at home and be steady, and go to the meeting-place."

But Andrew had to try it once more! This was the last time. The diary says on Sept. 17:

"Andrew returned from Labrador, had a hard time."

Another letter from Thomas to Andrew, after his return says:

"....If you have to serve out the bounty I hope you will have a good time although I should like to see you before you go. (By his phrase, 'serve out the bounty' I take it Thomas meant, 'if you have to make another voyage to fulfill your contract') Wilbur has had a vacation of three weeks in which time he visited Lunenburg and found the people as well as usual. He enjoyed his visit very much, He is now in his second term at Danvers.

The railroad comes within three-quarters of a mile of us. The proprietors of the Haverhill bridge have found they cannot collect toll of foot passengers on account of not having a walk for them. They are now building a walk on both sides of the bridge for that purpose."

He tells Andrew of going to Newburyport by the new railroad on the Fourth of July. He saw the fireworks, and came home up-river on the steamer, C. B. Stevens.

"...the boat had 300 or 500 on it and came very slow....."

1851

Up to this time Thomas had apparently been working in the shoe-shops. He seems to have been a very steady dependable young man, and devoted to his mother. Perhaps his brother Wilbur's success at school teaching encouraged him to try this also, for in Judith's diary we read:

"Nov. 3, 1851 Thomas commenced teaching in Hampton Falls (N.H.)"

He may not have been as brilliant as his brother, but he could compare favorably with the village teachers of his time. And he was escaping from the smell and the confinement of the work in the shoe-shops.

"Oct. 1, 1851 Sister Sargent (her brother Nathan's wife) and I went to Charlestown to visit Mrs. Tuttle, had a nice time, came home Friday, gone three days.

Jan. 27, 1852 Wilbur is at home on a vacation, carried Judith, John and myself to Amesbury.

Sept. 22 Judith went to Charlestown with her aunt Sargent.

The "Mrs. Tuttle" whom they visited in Charlestown was the married daughter of Nathan Sargent, therefore Judith Gile's neice. Her use of the formal titles sometimes makes it hard to realize the intimacy of relationships. The railroad made trips to Boston quite easy. Local travel was by horse-drawn "stage". For trips about the country such as Wilbur took his family on, he could hire a horse and carriage from a livery stable. Three of Judith Gile's brothers, and other relatives, were living in West Amesbury at this time. To reach there from Groveland they might have crossed on a ferry there, but perhaps more likely they drove down river to West Newbury, and then crossed Rock's Bridge, (two covered portions with the open section containing the "draw" between). A few miles more took them through Rock's Village, over the sandy road to East Haverhill, then up to Birch Meadow, perhaps by the steep Saunder's Hill road, perhaps by a back road less steep.

"Oct. 5, 1852 Brought half cord hard wood for $2.75
Oct. 14 Thomas bought 2½ tons of coal for $15.31"

Catastrophes, and death under unusual circumstances "made headlines" in Judith Gile's diary, just as they do in our news today. A few of the items she found astonishing:

"Aug. 14, 1853 A severe thunderstorm. Mr. Fowler's house was struck, he and his wife were stunned, the cat at their feet killed.

Oct. 8, 1854 Mr. Albion Merrill died with the small-pox.

Mar. 4, 1856 Mr. John Merrill was found dead on the Rail Road, jug beside him!

Jan. 8, 1869 Mr. Wm. Sawyer and wife were found dead in bed this morning by gas from the furnace in the cellar.

Jan. 10 Distressing calamity in Lawrence, 115 persons killed and 165 wounded by the falling of Pemberton Mills.

Sept. 6, 1881 Dark or yellow day, things looked a yellowish green, no sun out."

For several years the diary indicates that Wilbur and Thomas were in and out of the Gile home, as school terms began and ended. The younger children were at home and continuing their education a little longer. There is no mention of Andrew, who must have been working away from home. Letters written by his brothers to

Andrew lack addresses, so we cannot be sure where he was. Very likely he was working at shoe-making in Charleton or other towns in mid-Massachusetts.

There is a letter from a Foster Pepper of Monson, dated Feb. 1852, which indicates that Andrew had formerly worked for him, and would be welcome to come there again. He says:

> "I have three other hands beside myself, and sell some fifteen hundred dollars worth of boots and shoes in a year."

He goes on to report on several young ladies of Andrew's acquaintance who were still unmarried, and his daughter Mary adds quite a long note to her father's letter, "putting in a word for herself", as she says. He may have worked in Monson in 1848 or 49. Foster Pepper is mentioned later by Wilbur who ran across him in Washington in 1864.

> "May 28, 1853 Wilbur has been home sick a few days, went back (to Swamscott) today.
>
> July 11 Thomas is badly poisoned. (Poison ivy? or food poisoning?)
>
> Nov. 22 Had Dr. Martin clean John's teeth.
>
> Apr. 10, 1854 Mr. Hardy's School at the Academy begins; Judith and John go.

1854

The following letter from Wilbur Gile to his brother Andrew indicates that these young men were familiar with, and in sympathy toward, the widespread feeling that was growing in New England against the institution of slavery. He was teaching in Swamscott, and had gone into Boston:

> "I heard the young minister speak on the "Burns Case". He was <u>good</u>. I believe it is the duty of all ministers of the Gospel to denounce in strongest terms the contemptable proceedings of <u>that</u> week in Boston, for it was a disgrace to all New England and much greater to the old so-called "free" Bay State."

He is referring to the incident which occurred in the summer of 1854, when a negro named Anthony Burns was arrested in Boston, and under the provisions of the Fugitive Slave Law, was returned to his Virginian owner. There was a tremendous sentiment building up against this kind of action, and at a convention held in Framingham on July 4, the whole matter was most heatedly denounced by David Thoreau, and by William Loyd Garrison.

Although both Judith and John were attending the school at the Groveland Academy in the spring of 1854 they do not seem to have continued there long. A letter written by his mother in September mentions that John had been home on a short visit and returned, presumably to some job somewhere. She says "John is tolerably well contented."

1855-6

Mar. 24, 1855 Wilbur came home, he has resigned his school in Swamscott. (He had been teaching there about two years.)

Apr. 11, Wilbur began teaching in West Cambridge.

July 30, Judith commenced to teach a private school.

She was now 15 years old and becoming a wage earner. A treasured family possession was a little globe, only a few inches across which she used in teaching geography. During the summer of 1856 Judith taught in Haverhill in District No. 10, near the Plaistow line. In September she came home sick, and perhaps spent the winter at home. The next spring, she began to teach in Birch Meadow:

1857

"April 20, 1857 Darius Sargent came over and carried Judith to teach school in his District, and John to work on his farm."

Darius Sargent was Judith Sargent Gile's nephew, living on the home place. Whatever work John had tried before this he now had a chance to see what he could do as a farmer. Thomas was now teaching at Corliss Hill, behind the Whittier birthplace in East Haverhill.

Wilbur had been principal of the South Lawrence Grammar School for a year. The volume called Historical and Genealogical Researches and Recorder of Passing Events of Merrimac Valley, under the "Passing Events" of Lawrence, 1857, says:

"W. Fisk Gile was taken completely by surprise on the morning of Jan. 9th when he entered the schoolroom, to find upon his desk a splendidly bound, full-size, family Bible, and a silver pocket fruit-knife, with a note accompanying."

Wilbur was a single man, but perhaps his pupils suspected he was thinking of marriage, when they chose a Bible of that size!

The diary tells us of some outings and trips, which the family took from time to time:

"June 27, 1855 Judith, John and myself went to the dedication of the M.E. Church ... in Byfield ...

Sept. 11 Andrew, Judith, John and myself went to P(lum) Island.

Oct. 9 Bro. John came and carried me to his home to stay a few days, his wife has been sick a few weeks.

Jan. 23, 1856 Sister Sargent and I went to Haverhill. I bought an air-tight stove, gave $5.50 for it, brought it home in the stage.

Nov. 27 Thanksgiving Day, - my children all home."

There are signs in her diary of her continuing interest in the Methodist Church. The Church in Groveland was a Congregational one. Judith Mehitable joined that Church in 1854, but I do not think her mother ever changed her membership. In February, 1855 "Thomas carried me to the dedication of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Haverhill. Bishop James preached from Ezra 6, 16." In August, 1856 she attended a Quarterly Meeting of the Methodist Church in Newburyport, and there requested, and was given, a letter of recommendation to the Haverhill Church. She took the letter to Haverhill in October and became a member of that Church. From then on, she went to Haverhill to Church whenever she could.

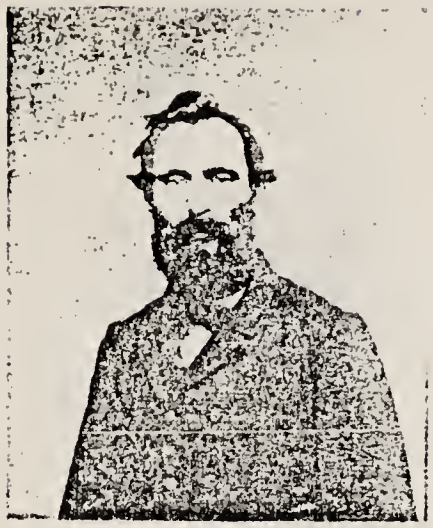
On the 17th of September, 1857, Wilbur Gile married Sarah Kate Poor, daughter of Samuel and Betsey Poor of Lawrence. It was probably a quiet wedding, for there is no record that the Gile family went up for the ceremony.

1857

"Oct. 21, 1857 We moved to Haverhill, in Bro. Chase' house."

Sarah Lapham Gile, sister of Thomas Wood Gile had married Ephraim Chase, Jr. and they lived in a house located on Pond Street (Kenoza Avenue) somewhere near where the Armory was later built. In this house Judith Gile and her children had rooms on the second floor. Thomas and Judith were both teaching and were at home between terms. Andrew and John may have been working in Haverhill, or nearby. Wilbur was settled in Lawrence, and they were nearer to him now, than when they were in Groveland.

Next spring, before the school term opened at Birch Meadow, "Judith and I bought each of us a black silk dress." Good for them!



Thomas Wood Gile, Jr.
Age 40?

Judith (Sargent) Gile
Age 55?

Andrew Jackson Gile
Age 30?

Wilbur Fiske Gile
Age 35?

John Sargent Gile
Age 25?

Judith Mehitable Gile
Age 18?

JUDITH GILE AND HER FIVE CHILDREN

Charles Everett Rowell
1836-1919
Age 42

Judith M. (Gile) Rowell
1840-1925
Age 38

Wilbur Everett Rowell
1862-1946
Age about 21

Laura Gile Rowell
Age 17

Mary Frances Rowell
Age about 13

Judith Sargent Rowell
Age about 4

CHARLES AND JUDITH ROWELL AND THEIR CHILDREN

Judith (Sargent) Gile
Age 70?

Back row, standing: William B. Locke; J. Purman Shook; Laura R. Jewell, holding Marjorie L. Jewell; Everett L. Jewell.
Middle row, standing: Mary R. Locke; William M. Shook; Judith M. Locke; Charles H. Jewell; Winifred F. Jewell.
Front row, seated: Frances R. Locke; Judith R. Shook; Judith Gile Rowell, holding Judith C. Shook; Charles E. Rowell.

ROWELL FAMILY, 1907

August, 1938, Hopkinton, Mass.

Left to right: Everett and Laura Jewell; Wilbur and Lillian Rowell; Frances and William Locke; Judith and Purman Shook.

"THE THIRD GENERATION"

Probably the greatest satisfaction Judith Gile got from her move from Groveland to Haverhill was the opportunity of being in a Methodist Church again and taking part in its activities. Church items are frequent in her diary:

> "April 11, 1858 Br. Harding baptized 20 persons by emersion; John and 13 others, by sprinkling.
> April 25, Bro. Harding baptized 21 persons in the afternoon, and in the evening preached his farewell..... it was a solemn time, he had been here two years.
> June 10, Bro. Rust, our minister, baptized Thomas and 9 others by emersion, and 2 by sprinkling.
> July 25, Thomas with 11 others was taken into the Church.
> Nov. 14, John and 6 others were taken into the Church.

In June of this same year: "Wilbur came down and carried me to Lawrence to make him a visit. I went in his school, made several calls with him and his wife, had a good visit, and he brought me home."

And the following year: "July 5, 1859, we all spent the Fourth at Wilbur's in Lawrence, had a very good visit, saw the baloon go up out of sight, the fountain on the Common play, and the fireworks in the evening, etc. etc. Judith and I went the Sat. before. Wilbur carried us to Mr. Jenk's meeting on the Sabbath."

"Mr. Jenk's meeting" may have been the Unitarian service, a church in which Wilbur became active as he developed more and more into a "solid citizen" of Lawrence. Fellowship with her children was a great happiness to Judith Gile. The next Thanksgiving Day: --

> "Wilbur and wife, Mr. Poor and wife, and Gates were here, my children were all at home. Wilbur sent me a turkey and chicken."

She also felt close ties with her own brothers and sisters. Her sister Hannah had married Levi Young and lived in Haverhill. One of their daughters is mentioned as among those who joined the Methodist Church, and -:

> "Jan. 23, 1858, Hannah B. Young, daughter of Levi Young died, was sick but 2 days, aged 19 years. She was to be married tomorrow to Mr. George Chase, only child of Mr. Luther Chase of this town.

Sept. 14, Mr. Daniel Sargent, his wife and daughters from Hopkinton, N.H., Mr. Ezekiel Sargent with his daughter from Salem, N.H., and Mr. Darius Sargent and wife took dinner with us." These men were all Judith's nephews.

Sept. 30 I rode to Amesbury yesterday in the Coach, went in Judith's school today. After tea, Mr. Darius Sargent carried Judith and I out to ride, we went in the graveyard, called at Brother Abner's, had a nice time."

1859

Judith Mehitable was still teaching in the Birch Meadow School, within sight of the house where her mother was born. She probably stayed with her cousin Darius Sargent, eldest son of Judith Sargent Gile's eldest brother Ezekiel. In this same school, the young poet Whittier had taught out a term some thirty years before. From a comparison of dates, I feel almost sure that Darius, and his brothers, would have been pupils of Whittier back in 1827-8. Darius was conscientiously keeping up the record of the Sargent family, which his father, Ezekiel, had begun. Shortly after this, on Jan. 12, 1859, Darius died, aged only thirty-nine. His only child Elvira never married and continued to live in Birch Meadow many years.

"April 14, 1859 Calvin Sargent (brother of Darius) bought the place that was his fathers for $600.

May 2, Judith commenced teaching in South Amesbury. (later Merrimacport).

May 9, Andrew planted the garden today. Yesterday Thos. visited Judith's school in So. Amesbury.

Dec. 3, Mr. John Brown was hung in Virginia."

Thomas Gile was sick through most of August this year. "Dr. Chase came to see him 12 times." In September he went to New Jersey, -- whether to teach, or on some other errand, the diary does not say.

1860

In May, 1860, Wilbur Gile was admitted to the bar in Lawrence. He had stopped teaching a year and a half before, in order to read law in the office of Judge Benson. He made a success in the legal profession as he had already done as a teacher. And he was very happy with his wife, Katie. That she was a merry and lovable person we can gather from his mention of her, and from one letter of hers to Judith Mehitable Gile, that has been preserved.

Lawrence, Nov. 12, 1861

"Dear Sis,

Oh it is terrible cold, and I have been sitting down on the floor near the stove trying to get warm, nearly all the morning. But came to the conclusion if I got up and took a softer seat, I should feel better. What do you think?

I took Willie to the depot this morning. He has gone to Boston, is coming back tonight.....

I suppose Andrew told you of our loss. Do you not think it was too bad! That new silk, that I was going to wear to your wedding, to have her take! It was very handsome. The next Saturday night, I went to get my clean clothes to put on, and lo and behold, I had not any light drawers, but Mother found an old pair that was laid aside that I put on. I tell Will if I should run away, he can have something to advertise me by, "one patch on the knee, the other on my 'sit-down'" as Charley Vialle calls it. Pompey Gile is well, and has grown very handsome since you last saw him. He is as big a thief as Mary Sulivan. The other day he went into Mrs. Boyden's cellar, and stole a large cabbage and brought it home. Mrs. Boyden came over and took it away from him. He brings home everything he can find.

Willie has got to come to Haverhill on business one week from today, Tuesday. He wants Mother and I to come with him, and if it is pleasant I think we shall come. Mother will not have another opportunity to come before you are made 'Mrs.' if not then. We shall come with the horse.

Father and Mother join with Will and I, to extend an invitation to Mother, Thomas, Andrew, John, Mr. Rowell and yourself to spend this coming Thanksgiving with us. We should all be very happy to see you all here. Mother has a pretty good girl. She is Irish. Mother sends her love to all, and would like to have you send us word as soon as it is convenient whether you will come. We will have a "licking good time, I'll tell you"....

Give my love to Mother and all Accept a share,

From Sister Kate

P.S. Write soon.

Two months later, there was a letter from Wilbur Gile to his sister:

Jan. 25, 1862, Lawrence.

".....What a day this is! I am at my office alone. Mr. Hood is at Lowell. Our student, Mr. Boardman, at

home. The storm is very violent. Gates came over with me, and will come for me early. I have got me a new sleigh. Mr. Hood and myself commenced as equal partners on the 7th inst. I purchased one tenth to make me equal in the Law Book etc. Business continues good..."

From these two letters we can gather some facts about Wilbur and Katie Gile. They were living in Lawrence with her parents who were in very comfortable circumstances. The household employed an Irish "girl" (the former one had stolen clothing); also a stableman named Gates. (Gates was one of the Thanksgiving party at Judith Gile's in Haverhill the year before.) Wilbur and his father-in-law may each have owned a horse, or the family may have shared one. Katie had a mischievous puppy.

Wilbur was now partner in a law firm in the busy manufacturing city of Lawrence which had been set off from Methuen, and incorporated only five years earlier. Some years later Wilbur was appointed a Judge in the Police Court. He was Superintendent in the Unitarian Sunday School. In 1933 an old lady in Methuen told William R. Locke, that she remembered his great uncle well. She said, "When Judge Gile was Superintendent, we had order in the Sunday School."

1861

The other important event referred to in Katie's letter is the coming marriage of Judith Mehitable Gile to Charles Everett Rowell. While teaching in the school at South Amesbury, Judith Mehitable had met and been wooed by this young man who was the village grocer. His father Charles L. Rowell had come to that village from Kingston, N. H., and set up a tannery on the creek. He was known as an industrious and respected citizen, and had served as member of the Mass. Legislature in 1855. The son, Charles Everett had been sent away to school, to Sanbornton Bridge, N. H. for a time, and to the Academy at Groveland. He was probably the outstanding young man of the village, and he and the young school-mistress were naturally drawn to each other. A little bundle of their letters bears record to the fact that they were very much in love. His private nickname for her was "M", or "Em", referring to her middle initial. This seems odd because his own sister Emily was called Em, at least in later years. When I remember them, his nickname for his wife was "Hittie", another shortening of her middle name.

Judith Sargent Gile's diary records this wedding, and also the marriage of Charles Rowell's brother and sister:

"Jan. 15, 1861 Mr. C. L. Titcomb and Miss Laura [illegible]

were married.

Nov. 26, Bro. Manson married Charles E. Rowell and Judith. All of both families were here, Mother Gile, Bro. and Sister Chase, and Hellen Thompson.
(Father Gile, her father-in-law had died on Sept. 24, 1860) "at half past 12 o-clock he dropped away very easy, aged 84 years."

Some six years later Charles Rowell's brother Alden married Annie Sargent, daughter of Judith Sargent Gile's nephew Erastus. The Alden Rowell's and the Titcombs lived not far apart near the Peabody-Salem line.

The year of 1861 ended in peace and contentment for Judith Gile. Her only daughter Judith Mehitable, was happily married and living not many miles away. Her children had all been together at the wedding and just before that they had enjoyed the Thanksgiving festival together at the home of her son Wilbur of whom she was duly proud.

1957691

1862

But 1862 was to prove a bad year for her. Early in the year Katie, of whom they were all so fond became seriously ill with "consumption". Judith Gile herself was sick for a good many weeks, and was deprived of what meant so much to her, - "going to meeting on the Sabbath". Her daughter was looking forward to the birth of her first child, - a joy, but an anxiety to a mother. Then came Andrew's enlistment.

For a year and more the towns-people in Massachusetts had been raising men and money to fight "for the Constitution and the Union". It became common for towns to raise money and offer a "bounty", as large as was necessary to persuade men to enlist and fill out the quota asked for. Whether Andrew had worked steadily at shoe-making since his two fishing voyages, or whether he had done other kinds of work, we do not know. But, inevitably, soldiering was going to attract him. His mother probably knew what was on his mind, and that was another thing she had to bear. Her entry is:

"Aug. 6, 1862 Wednesday, Andrew volunteered for the war, he goes in Company G., 35 Regiment."

He enlisted with a group of young men from Haverhill, among them, Andrew's cousin, William Thompson. There were thirteen Thompson cousins in Newton, children of Alice Gile Thompson, sister of Thomas Gile, Sr. Some of them stayed with their aunt Sarah (Gile) Chase, in the same house where Judith Gile lived. Andrew's first

letter to his mother was dated from the muster grounds.

Lynnfield, Aug. 19

Dear Mother, We arrived here in the afternoon of the day we left Haverhill about 20 of us left the same time. I like as well as I expected. Our company is not yet organized a number leaves for Haverhill today on a few days furlough. I shall be at home on a short furlough Wednesday. I think we shall have a pleasant time in this camp. the 33rd rigement start for Washington next Monday I have been examined with a number of others Cousin William Thompson among the number and we were all mustered in the U. S. Service, I must close by sending my love to you all and the folks below I shall be at home next Wednesday I think.

Your son truly A. J. Gile

Two other letters followed within a few days:

Lynnfield Aug. 11, 1862

My Dear Mother, I have just received a letter from you by Charles Fernald. Was very glad to hear you was all well. I have just come in with about 40 of our company which have been on a drill. The more I drill the better I like it. yesterday there was a great deal of company on the grounds it seems like a great Campmeeting a great number of tents on the field I do not know as I shall be at home until the last of the week I shall come home as soon as possible. has John enlisted? I think it a chance if he is excepted if he is drafted I have not very good accomodation for writing and will not answer John's letter at present I will close by sending love to all excuse bad writing and spelling for I have to write on the ground.

from your son truly A. J. Gile

Give love to Wilbur and Kate Charles and Judith when you see them.

Lynnfield Aug. 12, 1862
Camp Staunton

Dear Mother, I am sorry to inform you that I cannot go home on a furlough We have marching orders next Tuesday for Washington. there is quite a number of things that I should like to get but I shall not be able to get. I should like to see Wilbur if possible to see how I am to get my bounty .... I wish you could see Wilbur and send some things by him if he comes down I want a pair of dark collored wolen shirts and a thing to put needles pins and buttons in I am going to get some pictures taken and send them home I cannot stop to write any more at present I shall write again soon my Health is very good and I like

drilling much I camp in the same tent with E. B. Ayre
and my cousin I send love to you all
from your son A. J. Gile

1862

During that first week while Andrew was in camp at Lynnfield, his brother Wilbur's wife, Kate Poor Gile, had died, and probably Judith Gile went to Lawrence for the funeral. Wilbur had sent his mother a telegram, Aug. 12, "Katie died this noon funeral Thursday at five o'clock Notify Judith if you think best." Since she was in the last weeks of her pregnancy, Judith Rowell would hardly attend the funeral. Probably Thomas and John accompanied their mother.

On the 18th, when the Regiment was expected to leave at once for the front, Judith Gile's brother-in-law, Ephraim Chase, took her and his wife to Lynnfield to visit the soldiers. Wilbur was also there the same day. Three days later the boys were given a twenty-four-hour leave, and Andrew came back to Haverhill for a last hurried visit.

1862

On Aug. 22, the Regiment left Lynnfield, arriving in Washington on the twenty-fourth. Andrew's first letter from Washington was dated August 26th. But before his mother could have received that, one joyous event in the midst of so much unhappiness was the birth of Judith Gile Rowell's first child, a son they named Wilbur Everett. He was born on Aug. 28.

Mail was not quite as fast a hundred years ago, but in three weeks from the time the Regiment had left Massachusetts, Judith Gile got two letters from her son, and Charles and Judith Rowell received one. The letter to the Rowells nearly duplicates the first of Judith Gile's letters, so I have combined them in the following quotation.

Camp Cassey, Aug. 26

Dear Mother: (letter to his sister was headed Arlington Heights, Aug. 28)

I suppose you will expect a few lines from me..... We left Camp Staunton, Lynnfield on Friday last about noon for Boston, left Boston about 6 oclock for New York via Fall River. arrived in Jersey City just opposite New York at 8 oclock (A.M.) left Jersey City for Philadelphia soon after.....arriving in Philadelphia about 5 oclock Saturday afternoon. had a good Colation at Cooper's Hall, left for Baltimore about 9 oclock (P.M.).....arrived at Balti-

more about 9 oclock (P.M.)..... arrived at Baltimore Sunday morning marched through the city and took the cars for Washington about 2 P.M.....

We had a pleasant time on the rout we were cheered all the way until we arrived in Washington..... (the other letter says "cheered all the way to the vicinity of Baltimore")

.....started for Arlington Heights about 6 oclock marching about 10 miles from Washington passing Fort Albany before getting to our camp which I understand is Camp Casey. We marched in all Sunday at least 15 miles..... a number of our men gave out before we got to our camp..... the first night we had the sky for covering and the ground for bed.... we had no supper no tents... with our blankets and overcoats passed quite a comfortable night expect many more such nights.....

.....The cry is fall in for inspection and I must close

.....we have just come from inspection it is very warm we have drill from 6 to 8 hours per day, the sweat runs down my face while I am writing I feel as iff I was mowring away hay close to the eaves.... (so Andrew was familiar with farm work!)

We are well in sight of the Capotal and on very clear ground... the roads here are very poor no fences houses very poor everything looks different from in Haverhill. I suppose on account of the war. the ground not cultivated at least but a small part of it hundreds of acres of wood cut off to build roads with it....in our march from Washington we passed some 2000 horses which was sent out to General Pope they have retreated to Washington...(tremendous confusion existed around Washington just preceeding the Second Battle of Bull Run.) I have just heard that Pope is driving the Rebels it is good news... there is all sorts of stories afloat about the 14th Mass. Regiment.... some say they got badly cut up yesterday by the Rebel Cavalry I saw one of the 14th two days ago and had quite a chat with him. they have been in the forts about here for a number of months.... Dear Mother I am enjoying good health and like very much we have 20 tents in our company 5 in a tent Cousin George, and William and Henry Hoyt are with me they are all well and like well George says he wants to see Thomas out here in fun I suppose. I must close, excuse bad writing for I have no convenience to write I send my love to you all When you write direct Washington D.C. 35 Regiment Mass Volunteers in care of Captain Gibson I hope you will write soon I do not know how long we shall

stop here Good bye for the present
Your son A. J. Gile

Judith Gile says in her diary:

"Sept. 15 I received a letter from Andrew. He is in Maryland."

The letter:

Monday (Sept.) 8th Leesburough, Md.
Dear Mother I take a few minutes to write you a line we are on a march in Maryland for some place but I do not know where A great many - 1000-troops are on the march in this state I think we shall soon be in an engagement a great many of our men fell out before we got here Our march was about 15 miles from Arlington I received a paper from home yesterday I expect a letter soon from C. and Judith I wrote to them a few days ago Good bye, ready to march in great haste your affectionate son A. J. Gile
Write soon direct same as before.

1862

So Company G. had joined the ranks of the Army of the Potomac which McClellan was leading north out of Washington to seek an engagement with Lee. Parts of this Army were seasoned troops tough from a year of war, but the boys of Company G. had been mustered in less than a month before. Presumably Andrew's Sept. 8, letter was really written in Leesburg, Va. He did not realize when he headed it "Maryland", that they would not be in that state until they crossed the river. History says that Lee and his men had spent a couple of days near Leesburg about four days before. Then the southern army had moved on north to Frederick, where he stopped to plan his maneuvers and took part of his men westward to the vicinity of Sharpsburg, while the others went to take Harper's Ferry. Company G. of the 135th Massachusetts along with the other Federal forces followed much the same route, and found the enemy they were seeking beyond the Antietam Creek, before daybreak on Sept. 17.
The next entry in the diary is:

"Sept. 24, Heard that Andrew was killed on the 17th in the battle of Antietam in Maryland."

Sept. 29 Wilbur started today for Maryland to find out something more about Andrew.

Oct. 3, I rec'd a letter from Andrew. It was picked up on the battlefield and put in an envelope and sent to me, it was dated Sept. 13.

SOLDIER's LETTER Mrs Judith Gile Pond Street
Haverhill, Mass.
New York Oct. 2,

Mrs. Gile, the Enclosed letter was taken from the body of your son on the battle field and was handed to me by Capt. Gibson Co.G 35th Mass. with a request that I should forward it. Yours etc. W. H. William.

Com Aoa Office
brother of Wolson S. William of
Haverhill
Co. G. 25 Mass.

Frederick City, Md. Sept. 13th

Dear Mother, We are near Frederick City expecting every hour to have an engagement with the enemy I understand the enemy are under Gen. Lee we have a tremendous army under Gen. Burnside I hope our forces will be victorious if we lose this battle it will be bad for us. there is a number of us writing home perhaps some that will never write again We are about 60 miles from Washington We have marched all the way about 17 miles a day We left William Thompson at Camp Whipple, Va. have not heard from him since we left. Mr. Fernald was left at the same place I think he will be discharged soon. we camp without any tents rain or shine. I think we shall have some tents soon I expect to hear from home tonight our chaplain came from Washington with the mail I have not had a letter from Judith yet hope I shall have one tonight my conveniences for writing is very poor haveing to write on the ground and a great deal of talk around me Mr. Murry is sitting beside me mending his coat Our orders are to march and I must close Good bye your affectionate son

Andrew J. Gile

1862

Wilbur Fisk Gile spent a week or more on his trip to Maryland looking for more definite news of his brother Andrew's fate. He visited Baltimore, Frederick, Boonsborough, and Sharpsburg, also Harper's Ferry and Washington. He wrote his mother that there seemed no doubt the news of Andrew's death was true:

Frederick City, Md.
Oct. 3, 1862

My Dear Mother

Yesterday I went to Boonsborough on the coach and from there I went on foot to Kirtingsville and on the late Battlefield I saw a number of men of Co. G who knew Bro. Andrew well and they say that Dear Bro is not missing but killed

Boonsboro
Sharpsburg
Frederick
ANTIETAM CREEK
Baltimore
MARYLAND
PATUXENT R.
Harpers Ferry
SHENENDOAH
Leesburg
POTOMAC R.
Washington
Ft. Cass
Ft. Albany
VIRGINIA

his belt and cartridge box worked with his name were found on a grave between Co. G. and Co. B. Mass 35 Rig. also a letter to you which has been sent to you and some other things. They all speak in the highest terms of praise of Dear Andrew and seem to have much sympathy for us. Dear Mother do not grieve for Bro Andrew as one lost but trust in God that he has been called home by a kind and all wise Father.

..... Your affc. Son W. F. Gile

A month later Sylvester Chase of Haverhill went to Maryland to arrange to bring back the bodies of the boys from that city who had died at Antietam. Wilbur went with him hoping that he could find Andrew's resting place and bring him home with the others. After this second attempt he wrote, "We have done all that we could to find the remains of dear Bro. Andrew but can not find them." The diary says:

"Nov. 25 Five soldiers were buried from the Town House that were killed or died from wounds in battle."

In a letter written to her daughter Judith Rowell, Judith Gile mentions that Thompson, and Fernald, the soldiers mentioned in Andrew's last letter as having had to drop out, were discharged and had returned to Haverhill.

Andrew's story was closed on Jan. 19, 1863, when according to his mother's diary, "The expressman brought some of Andrew's clothes that Lieut Brooks sent home." Even after this Judith Gile retained a lingering hope that because his body had not been found, there might still be some mistake, and her son might still be alive. The sight of a shabby soldier on the street would set her heart beating with hope. But it was never Andrew!

The year had begun with her own sickness and Katie Gile's decline. The later months had been filled with anxiety and grief over Andrew. The year ended with the death of her mother-in-law, Mary Wood Gile, who was taken sick while eating her dinner three days before Christmas, and died "very easy" at 9 P. M. Dec. 29. (Quite possibly "Mother Gile" lived with her daughter Sarah Lapham (Gile) Chase on the ground floor of the same house.) For Judith Gile, life went on, as it always must.

1863

In April of 1863 the New Hampshire Conference "sat" in Haverhill for its annual session, and Judith Gile entertained two of the delegates. In June she had a Dr. Stephens take out her teeth. Apparently she never was fitted with artificial ones. Her grand-

daughters remember her as toothless. In July the whole family spent three days at Hampton Beach, with Wilbur paying the expenses. She attended some sessions of the Methodist Camp Meeting at Epping, N. H. Her eldest and her youngest son were living in Haverhill with her; Thomas teaching at "Dist. No. 19", near the Plaistow line, perhaps 3 miles from home. John was working in a store. At Thanksgiving, she and Thomas and John went to South Amesbury to have dinner with her daughter's family. Baby Willie was 15 months old, and was surely the center of interest for the family.

1864

Wilbur Gile was busy in the summer of 1864 recruiting men to fill the quota assigned to the city of Lawrence. It appears that such a quota might be filled up by finding men in other parts of the country who could be attracted by a smaller amount of "bounty" than the local men, who were accustomed to the good wages of the woolen mills. In a letter from Washington, written July 17, 1864 he tells his mother, - "I have done a big thing for Lawrence, having got about 80 men for 4 or 5000 dollars less than they would cost at home". A Capt. Merrill was with him, and he says he met sevcral other men from Massachusetts who were there on the same business. On Sunday he and another man went to "a nigro meeting where two little black babies were baptised We liked very much." He sends affectionate greetings to his family, and remarks on how hc has missed his "darling Katie" in the two years since she died.

1865

In April 14, 1865 Judith Gile's diary notes. "Lincoln was killed by Booth." On the day of his funeral, she went along with crowds of other people to attend services in the Haverhill Town Hall. Public buildings were all draped in mourning, as well as many private dwellings. Immediately after this Wilbur made a trip west as far as St. Paul. Hc was away about two months, and wrote several letters describing some people he had visited and sights he had seen such as Niagara Falls. But the purpose of his trip is not clear. He may havc been concluding some of the recruiting business he had been doing the year bcfore, or looking into business possibilities for himself, or merely looking up old friends and sight-seeing.

Judith Sargent Gile was now sixty years old, and a good many entries in her diary make note of deaths among her relatives and acquaintances. We have mentioned the passing of her husband's father and mother. Also within this dccade she notes the death of a nephew, Hazen Sargent; her brother Nathan, with whom thcy first lived in Groveland; her husband's aunt, Mchitable Wood Foster, who had also given them a home for a while; her brother Abner Sargent; brother-in-law, Enos Heath; nephew, Erastus Sargent; Aunt Betsey

Wood, who had reached the age of 97; and a good many others.

1866

Another grandchild arrived to bring joy to the family. Judith Rowell's second child was a daughter born in South Amesbury, June 9, 1866, named Laura Gile Rowell. She was my mother. Judith Gile wrote them that the cousin Hellen Thompson, who lived in the same house in Haverhill might be able to come to help them for a while "as soon as the nurse goes", if they are not able to find a girl to work. On the same sheet she writes a note to her little grandson, Wilbur Rowell:

> "Dear Little Willie, how is little sister? does she know anything yet but to take milk? will you please give her two soft sweet kisses for me, you must handle her very tenderly till she grows larger. When your Papa goes to Boston tell him your Gramma would like to have him bring you up to see her. With Love from your Grandmother Gile."

Wilbur Fisk Gile delighted to take presents to his Mother as well as to carry her on little trips. Once he gave her twenty dollars to buy a refrigerator and ice to put in it; again he brought a "stripped" (striped?) rocking chair, and later matching "chairs for our parlor". Once he gave silver napkin-rings to his mother and; his brothers John and Thomas (I have the ring that was Thomas') once a set of furs, and again a lamp. At Christmas in 1867 he gave his mother a "set of silver forks", probably the ones Judith R. Shook now has. Sometimes he brought practical gifts, - a barrel of flour or a turkey. About this time he began to give her money each birthday - as many dollars as she was years old - often in the form of gold pieces.

1867

On June 20, 1867 Wilbur married a second wife, Sarah Frances Norris, called "Frank". Judith Gile and her family went to Lawrence for the wedding. She had met Frank a few weeks before when Wilbur brought her down to introduce her. In August Frank's father died. In September Judith Gile went to Lawrence to visit Wilbur and his wife, where they were boarding with a Mrs. Cheney. On Thanksgiving she had all her children and the two grandchildren at her home together.

1868

Next spring the Methodist Conference met in Lawrence, and that gave Judith Gile occasion to spend another week with her son

Wilbur. She was always ready for a trip or a "meeting" and for any new experience that came her way. She went with Charles and Judith to Salisbury. She went to Boxford on a Sunday School picnic. Nearly every summer she went to the Epping Camp meeting for a day or so. She visited her daughter Judith and the children at South Amesbury. Once she went to Lawrence and Wilbur took her and his mother-in-law, Mrs. Norris to Boston, - "we rode around in the horse-cars, went into several public buildings, had a good time."

1869

"July 5, 1869 Celebration. The Soldier's Monument was uncovered." This "celebration" was one which Judith Gile must have viewed with pride and sadness. At the corner of Main and Pond Streets, almost within sight of her windows they had put up a statue of an infantry soldier. It was done by a local sculptor, from one of the local boys as a model, and it was incribed with the names of Haverhill's war dead - Andrew, and 186 others. The story is that one name got on by error, the man being "alive and kicking" at the time. On the big day there were three bands, a chorus of school children, an original ode, and "all the fixin's". A banquet followed the unveiling, and I hope that Andrew's family attended!

1870

At some point after his second marriage Wilbur took his younger brother John into his office to "read law". On June 20, 1870, John S. Gile was admitted to the practice of law, and later the two brothers became partners in their own law firm. In this same month, June 15, Judith's third grandchild was born, Mary Frances Rowell.

1870

Some diary entries recording various events:

"April 21, 1870 A very great freshet, much damage was done by it.

July 20 John carried me to Hampton Beach yesterday, we called at Judith's, took dinner at Bro. John's (John K. Sargent).

Sept. 23 The cornerstone of Grace Church, the second Methodist Church in Haverhill was laid today.

Oct. 8 Mrs. Bickford and her son were found dead in their beds with their throats cut.

Oct. 12 Mr. E. Tibbetts and Emily Rowell were married (Younger sister of Charles Rowell).

Nov. 19 Charles and Judith moving into their own house."

This was the white house facing the river next to the foot of the "green" of the old Merrimacport Baptist Church, where the Rowells lived the rest of their lives. They had lived for some nine years in rented quarters in the house next to the grocery store at the curve of the road up the hill. Charles Rowell was Postmaster, as well as grocer, since 1865.

1871

"April 13, 1871 N. H. Conference sets at Rochester.
May 10 So much hail fell the ground was white.
May 24 I went with Bro. John and wife to Charlestown to visit Mrs. Prentice (Elizabeth (Sargent) (Tuttle) Prentice was the same niece she had visited in Charlestown in 1851) Came home the 26th On our way home we stopped at Mrs. Brown's in Wakefield and took dinner, we had a very pleasant visit; went to Mr. Auburn and many places.
Oct. 8 A great fire in Chicago."

1872

In the spring and again in the summer of 1872 Judith Gile was sick for some weeks. Two of her sisters-in-law and other relatives died. In September her youngest son, John was married to Francette Currier. The diary first mentions the girl a couple of months earlier:

"July 16 Thomas, Wilbur, his wife, Mrs. Norris, John, Fannie and I visited Judith - a very warm day it is."

She may have met Fannie before, or this may perhaps have been a visit to introduce John's fiancee. Francette was the daughter of an Ebenezer Currier who had been born in Amesbury, and may well have had distant connections with the Sargents. Fannie's mother was a Heald of Carlisle, and she at least was not favorable toward this undistinguished young lawyer for a son-in-law. They were married in Lawrence by a Unitarian clergyman, and without ceremony. The Curriers apparently made the best of it and took the young couple to live with them. There was no friendly interchange between the family of Judith Gile and the Curriers, as there had been with the Poors and the Norris'. The diary mentions John's coming to see his mother, but Fannie was not usually with him.

1874

In May of 1874, her brother-in-law, Ephraim Chase, in whose house she was living, died suddenly. .."fell down on Main

Street and died before he could be moved." All these years her oldest son, Thomas had stayed faithfully with his mother. He was now 48, and his younger brothers and sister were married. Thomas began to court his cousin, Sarah Thompson, who had either lived in the family downstairs, or had been a frequent visitor there. Early in November they were married and went to live at Corliss Hill, in Haverhill, not far up the road behind Whittier's Birthplace. Thomas was 48 and his wife was 35. Judith Gile now packed her things, and broke up her home in Haverhill, and came to South Amesbury to live with her daughter, whose third daughter, Edith, had been born a few weeks before. In this comfortable home among her growing grandchildren Judith Gile spent the remaining seventeen years of her life.

During the first year she lived there, my grandparents, Judith and Charles Rowell were active in starting a little Methodist group in South Amesbury. The only Church in the village had been the Baptist Church which was not cordial to those outside its bonds. They permitted non-Baptists to "bake cake for their food sales, but not to share their Communion with them."

> "Dec. 6, 1874 Sabbath - Rev. C.M. Dinsmore, Methodist, preached in Citizen's Hall, So. Amesbury, the first time, we expect he will preach here until Conference.

This first pastor, Mr. Dinsmore, is quoted as saying that the household of Charles E. Rowell was "the only Methodist family in the place." Interest became keen, and a year later a Methodist Society was organized with 10 members. In June 1877, 15 more members were added. As in the Haverhill church, some people were baptized "by sprinkling", some "by immersion" - on the edge of the river. Later, Judith Gile was happy to see her grandchildren baptized and taken into this Church.

1876

Early in 1876, West Amesbury and South Amesbury were set off from the rest of Amesbury and incorporated as the town of Merrimac. West Amesbury "corner" became Merrimac Square, and South Amesbury became Merrimacport. The new town had about 2000 inhabitants, compared with about 3000 in the remaining part of Amesbury. A Town Hall was erected and dedicated and a Public Library opened in the same block. This was all of great interest to Judith Gile. The Town Hall had been given by William P. Sargent, a rather distant connection of hers.

Merrimacport in the 1870's was a lively village, and the house of Charles E. Rowell was near the center of it. The family living there had a point of vantage for all that went on. Diagonally

across the street and down the hill was the wharf with its gear for handling cargo from the boats that tied up there. Coal was regularly unloaded here from the heavy square barges, or gundaloes, which were towed upriver by tug-boats. Schooners carrying lumber also unloaded here to supply the carriage shops in this village and at the "Corner". In warm weather there were many small boats on the river, and at least one steam boat plying up and down the river carrying passengers pleasure-bound.

My uncle, Wilbur E. Rowell wrote in the Essex Institute Collections, for Jan. 1946:

> "...two or three times a year a schooner brought... a cargo of horns. West Newbury had quite a business in the manufacture of combs: there was no wharf in West Newbury, and so the cargo of horns was landed at our wharf in South Amesbury and carted about four miles to West Newbury. But the smell!"

From her window Judith Gile could see the coal carts plodding slowly up the hill, almost any day, on their way to Merrimac Square and the other parts of town. Above the offices connected with the wharf and its business there was a good sized auditorium, called Citizens' Hall, and this was where the Methodist Society met. A short distance beyond, two square, two-story, school buildings stood side by side, and here her grandchildren went to school.

There were several carriage shops in town, some boat-building enterprises, and a pottery-works up on the hill. The tannery, which had been set up by the elder Charles Rowell forty years before was only a few blocks distant and I imagine it could be smelled all over town. Charles L. Rowell was now elderly, and in 1868 he had leased his "Currier shop and tan shop, with all buildings, water rights, right of way to main road" etc. to Joseph Merrill of Danvers for $400. per year. I do not know how long Mr. Merrill continued to operate it.

1876

There was a good deal of visiting around. This year, she notes:

> "Apr. 3 John came down and carried me to see Thomas, took dinner there.
>
> May 26 John came down, carried me to Groveland cemetary...
>
> July 2 Am visiting at Bro. John's, went to their meeting .... went to the cemetary where my parents are buried."

Her brother John Kelly Sargent was then living on a farm on the edge of Merrimac, near the Haverhill line, between Rocks Village and Saunders Hill. His son Charles N. lived there, as did, to the present his son John K. Sargent the second. Another son of the elder John K. Sargent, Judge M. Perry Sargent lived in Amesbury, and was a well known figure all over the vicinity when I was young. He always wore a light gray top-hat, a Prince Albert, and an air of great importance. His sister Sally kept house for him, and sometimes came to call on her cousin, Judith Rowell in Merrimacport. John K. Sargent died in summer of 1963.

"July 22 John, his wife and myself at Salisbury Beach, stopping at the Atlantic House.
Sept. 19 John, his wife, Charles, Judith and Wilbur (he was 14) started for the Centennial at Philadelphia."

These two entries indicate that John did manage to carry Fannie away from her parents at some times. This trip to the Centennial Exposition was a high light for Wilbur and his parents for a long time. One souvenir they brought back was a cane which long stood in the umbrella urn inside the front door. (In possession of F.R. Locke).

Judith Sargent Gile had been small and lively as a child, and had remained slender as a woman. Now she was a little old lady, her briskness hampered by a rheumatic stiffness, her alert interest in things around her made difficult by her deafness - still an important member of the family. Throughout the years of her widowhood she had worn black, probably black-and-white calico for "morning", and silk for "best". She wore a black lace cap that framed her face, which was exchanged for a diminutive bonnet with strings tied under the chin when she went to Church or went out to ride. "Bonnet and shawl" was the conventional outdoor garb of the time. The shawl was folded around the shoulders and fastened in front by a pair of shawl-pins, stout 3-in. pins with ornamental heads, joined by a short chain.

In her daughter's house she had for her own the "front chamber" which looked down onto the main street of the village, and across the street to the river beyond. Here she had her treasures, - photographs of her sons and her grandchildren; a crayon enlargement made from the daguerreotype of her husband; the framed piece of needlework made by her sister Sally so many years ago. Here she had the memorial quilt from Lunenburg, her letters, her Church papers, and her other treasures. The pink teaset which had been set out and admired in so many parsonages up and down the country had met with a calamity when she made her final move from Haverhill to Merrimacport, when the box in which it was packed was dropped by a careless worker, and several cups

and other pieces broken. In winter the room was kept cozy by a fire in a squat soapstone stove. The top of the stove was hinged to admit generous chunks of firewood, and through the little windows of isin-glass in the front, light flickered cheerfully over the room at twilight. After a visit with her relatives in Haverhill, or a stay in Lawrence with her two lawyer sons, she returned to this room which was her home.

The granddaughter who had been born in 1874 had lived only eleven months. She is said to have died of an intestinal complaint, but since the entry in Judith Gile's diary immediately following says that she, herself, was sick with whooping-cough, I suspect that the baby had had it. Now another child is born:

1880

"May 11, 1880 Judith (Gile Rowell) has a little daughter born today."

This one was named "Judith Sargent Rowell", for her grandmother.

When Judith S. Rowell was born, her brother Wilbur was eighteen years old. After finishing his schooling at Merrimacport, he went for one year to Wilbraham Academy, and then continued his education at Wesleyan University:

"Sept. 15, 1881 Wilbur E. Rowell left home for Middletown College, first term.

Sept. 19 Our President James Garfield was shot this evening.

Jan. 24, 1882 Sister Elizabeth, Bro. Nathan Sargent's widow died.

Jan. 15 Tibbetts baby G. E. died with diphtheria, their other children are sick."

These cousins lived only a block away. Surely they watched the two-year-old Judith anxiously and kept her close at home.

"May 31 Mr. Charles L. Rowell of this village died. (Charles E. Rowell's father.)

June 24 A fire in this village, one dwelling house and two shops burnt."

When fire started in one of those big wooden carriage-shops with its stock of seasoned lumber it was a fearful sight. I saw one or two similar fires twenty years later. These two shops were altogether too close to the Rowell home. The "Agile" hand-pump company worked valiantly pouring on water from the river, with

little effect on the roaring flames.

"Jan. 1, 1886 My son John sent me a large easy chair for a New Year's present."

The diary gives prominence to the visits of her sons, and their gifts. Wilbur and John had a real affection for her and showed their thoughtfulness in a choice of gifts to please her. Since coming to make her home at Merrimacport, she had received a pair of blankets, a watch, gold-bowed spectacles, a "long shawl", and a clock which told the day of the month as well as the hour, (now Jim Shook's).

The older granddaughters, Laura and Frankie, attended the local High School, then each "went away to school" for a time: Laura to Abbott Academy in Andover, and Frances to Wilbraham. Then both girls taught school. Laura taught in Judith Gile's old home, Birch Meadow, and in the school at Merrimacport. Frances taught at East Douglas, and at Pleasant Valley, a few miles down river from her home.

1885

The grandson, Wilbur E. Rowell completed his course at Wesleyan University in June of 1885. His proud parents, and his eldest sister travelled to Middletown to see him receive his degree - cum laude - the first of his family to get so much formal education. He spent the next two years in Lawrence where his two uncles were practicing law. He had sleeping quarters in their office-suite. In September, 1887 he was enrolled in Harvard Law School. He may have commuted from Lawrence.

1888

If he was living in Cambridge, he was called back to Lawrence soon after the first of the year by the illness of his uncle, Wilbur Fisk Gile. There were no miracle-drugs then. Nearly all nursing was done at home by members of the family. Wilbur Rowell helped in the sick room where his uncle was fighting against pneumonia, - to no avail. Wilbur Gile's death at the age of 56 was a blow to all of them. They had been in the habit of looking to him as head of the family. It was hardest of all on Judith Gile, his mother. She had lost so many loved ones, and each new loss brought back the old sorrows along with the sharp new grief! After that bitter February day when she stood by her son's grave in Lawrence, she returned to Merrimacport with her daughter and son-in-law, an old woman of 84.

1888

Wilbur Rowell did not go back to the Law School next year, but continued to read law with his younger uncle, John S. Gile, until he was prepared for admission to the Bar. He carried on his law practice in the same office, at 239 Essex Street, until early in the 1900's when he moved into the Bay State Building. From the windows of his old office I watched my first circus parade.

"Uncle John" stayed on in Lawrence for another eight or nine years. Then with his wife Fannie he moved to Melrose Highlands, taking a business location in Boston. He proceeded to become the "financial success" of the family. He may have been impelled by memories of a moneyless childhood, and by a desire to prove he could give Fannie all that her parents had been able to give her. At any rate he developed a knack for making sound investments which gradually put them into "comfortable" circumstances. His estate has helped to cushion the mature years of his nieces and their families. After Wilbur Gile's death John continued to come to Merrimacport to see his mother, and sister. All the rest of his life he visited his sister, Judith Rowell, at intervals, bringing her little gifts, and remembering her birthdays with dollars keyed to the number of her years.

1872

There were new developments, especially in modes of transportation, which must have been of interest to Judith Gile and her family. In one of the letters quoted, John K. Sargent spoke of a proposal being discussed in 1846 to build a branch railroad from Amesbury Mills (Amesbury Center) through the center of Merrimac and Newton, N. H. to join the main line from Boston to Portland. That was never built, as he described it, but a shorter branch from Newton to Merrimac was locally financed, built, and opened in 1872. For 15 or 20 years this was the best way to get from Merrimac to Haverhill, or Boston.

1888

In 1888 there was another innovation. A horse-car line was laid out following the bank of the River from Amesbury Ferry, through Pleasant Valley, to Merrimacport, and on to Merrimac Square. It was an extension of a line operating from Newburyport to Amesbury, which was the first horse-car line anywhere in that vicinity. The route turned north opposite the Merrimacport wharf, just a stone's throw from the Rowell home, and a new section of road was cut under the hill, parallel with the Creek to carry the tracks toward Merrimac Square without the steep climb which the old road made. The cars were pulled by horses only about a year

after this road was opened. Then the entire line was electrified, and a new era had begun. The motor-men who stood on the platform of the little cars, rain or shine, summer and winter, were called "drivers" long after the horses had disappeared. When I was a child, some of the old horse-cars could still be seen, sitting in some yard for children to play in, or chickens to roost in. It was about two years later that the trolley-car line was opened from Amesbury through Merrimac Square to Haverhill. Thereafter, for a dozen years or more, a network of trolley-car lines sprang up all over the country, making travel easy and convenient.

Judith Gile's diary is silent for the last five or six years of her life, as though writing had become a burden. This does not mean that she was not interested in these changes that went on around her. Even more surely she must have been happily aware of what was going on just up the hill opposite her son-in-law's store. There a little Methodist Church was built, which was finished and occupied in 1889, by the Methodist group in which the Rowells were so active.

1889

Her life now centered more and more within the household. In winter twilights she sometimes told the children stories of her earlier years. Together the family played guessing games like Twenty Questions, spelling or rhyming games, Corn-and-Beans, or "My Grandmother had a Cat". On Sunday evenings, they competed at reciting Bible verses, and answering Bible questions. While the three older children were away, there was close companionship between the three Judiths, - grandmother, mother and daughter. After the supper at the table so pleasantly lit by the hanging lamp, they would sometimes sit side by side on the horsehair sofa, nibbling hickory nuts and slices of apple until it was time for young and old to go upstairs to bed.

Judith Gile wrote to her son Thomas, in 1886, some comments on her outlook on life:

> "Hope this will find you well and happy as we can be. There is no perfect happiness in this world, while here we shall have temptations, sickness, sorrow, and a multitude of troubles. If everything was to our mind we should want to stay here always. God will overrule all things as He sees best.....and will never forsake them that trust in Him.....I have read somewhere that we never ought to turn a blessing over to find a dark side on it. I thought it was good advice, we are apt to look on the dark side of things."

1891

On March 7, 1891, Judith Sargent Gile's long, useful, busy life came to a close. In the big bed in her daughter's "front chamber", she died "very easy", as she would have said, among her photographs and other treasures. She was buried beside her husband in the lot in the Groveland cemetary which she had been faithfully visiting for the 43 years since his death.

Her children to the third and fourth generation may well rise up and call her blessed.

Acknowledgements and Sources of Material

I am particularly indebted to my two aunts, Frances Locke and Judith Shook for sharing their childhood memories with me, and for answering endless questions. The diaries of Judith S. Gile, and Sally Sargent, as well as a large number of letters to and from various members of the Gile family were loaned me by Judith R. Shook, and form the essential background of the story. The letters from Andrew after his enlistment add their particular interest.

I have made use of my memory of things told me by my mother and grandmother, and my familiarity with the town of Merrimac. All members of the family have been patient with my questions, and my requests for data for the List of Descendants. My cousin, William R. Locke, has been especially interested and helpful.

I got help with some of the Vital Statistics from the offices of Town and City Clerks in Merrimac, Haverhill, Lawrence, Melrose, etc. Libraries and several institutions to whom I wrote have supplied me with information, and friends in Merrimac have offered suggestions.

I have consulted the following books:

The Sargent Record: William Sargent 1899
History of the Guild, Guile and Gile Family: Charles Burleigh, 1887
Kelly Family Record: Giles Kelley (Loaned me in 1932 by Mrs. W.B. Kelley, Sr.)
Historical and Genealogical Researches of Merrimack Valley, 1857
History of Merrimac and Amesbury: Joseph Merrill 1880
Old Families of Salisbury and Amesbury: David W. Hoyt 1897-1919
For light on Andrew's movements, 1862:
R. E. Lee: Freeman
The Potomac: Gutheim
Reveille in Washington 1860-65: Margaret Leach

A List of the Descendents of

THOMAS WOOD GILE and JUDITH SARGENT GILE

Thomas Wood Gile is #431 among the Posterity of Samuel Guile of Haverhill, in History of the Guild, Guile, Gile Family: Charles Burleigh, 1887.

Judith Sargent is daughter of Ezekiel, #55 in, Sargent Record: E.E. Sargent, 1899.

All towns in the list, not otherwise specified are in Massachusetts.

SECOND GENERATION

1 THOMAS WOOD GILE (Jr.) b. Mar. 2, 1826, Groveland; d. Jan. 18, 1904, Merrimacport; m. Nov. 9, 1874 Sarah Elizabeth Thompson, his own cousin, who was b. Feb. 20, 1839, Haverhill; d. July 19, 1896. She was dau. of Samuel and Alice (Gile) Thompson. He was a shoemaker, school teacher and farmer. No children.

2 ANDREW JACKSON GILE b. Sept. 22, 1828, Groveland; d. Aug. 6, 1862, Antietam, Md. He was a shoemaker, and was in Company G. 35th Mass. Volunteers. Unmarried.

3 WILBUR FISK GILE b. Jan. 4, 1832, Groveland; d. Feb. 5, 1888, Lawrence. m. (1) Sept. 17, 1857 Sarah Katherine Poor, who was b. June 10, 1837, Andover; d. Aug. 12, 1862. She was dau. of Samuel and Betsey (Plummer) Poor of Lawrence.
m. (2) June 20, 1867 Sarah Frances Norris, who was b. Sept. 3, 1837; d. Jan. 21, 1909. She was dau. of Joseph and Eliza S. (Wilson) Norris of Lawrence. He was a school teacher, then lawyer and Judge of Police Court of Lawrence. No children.

4 JUDITH MEHITABLE GILE b. Jan. 5, 1840 Chatham (Colchester) Conn.; d. Mar. 21, 1925 at Lawrence (hosp.); m. Nov. 26, 1861, Charles Everett Rowell, who was b. Mar. 8, 1836; d. Oct. 21, 1919, Merrimacport. He was son of Charles Lewis and Mary Ann (Sanborn) Rowell of Merrimacport. She was a teacher. He was village grocer, postmaster, Selectman, etc. Children:

(6) Wilbur Everett Rowell	1862
(7) Laura Gile Rowell	1866
(8) Mary Frances Rowell	1870

9 EDITH JANE ROWELL
b. Oct. 4, 1875; d. Aug. 24, 1876

(10) Judith Sargent Rowell 1880

5 JOHN SARGENT GILE b. Feb. 26, 1842, Belchertown; d. June 2, 1922, Melrose Highlands; m. Sept. 12, 1872 Francette E. Currier, who was b. Aug. 21, 1845, Lowell; d. Jan. 12, 1932, Boston (hosp.) She was dau of Ebenezer B. and Mary W. (Heald) Currier of Lawrence. He was lawyer. No children.

THIRD GENERATION

6 WILBUR EVERETT ROWELL b. Aug. 28, 1862, Merrimacport; d. Mar. 4, 1946, Lawrence; m. (1) Sept. 22, 1891, Mary Amanda Rand, who was b. Oct. 16, 1863; d. May 4, 1905, Lawrence. She was dau. of John William and Mary Caroline (Berry) Rand of Somerville. m. (2) Mar. 18, 1908 Lillian Willard Bridges, who was b. July 23, 1869, Hopkinton; d. Aug. 13, 1941, Boston. She was dau. of Daniel T. and Frances (Wadsworth) Bridges of S. Framingham. He was a lawyer, and Judge of Police Court. Res. Lawrence. No children.

7 LAURA GILE ROWELL b. June 9, 1866, Merrimacport; d. Feb. 24, 1939, Merrimac. m. Aug. 16, 1893 Everett Lincoln Jewell, who was b. Apr. 9, 1868, Stratham, N. H.; d. Jan. 15, 1940, Haverhill (hosp.). He was son of William Henry and Hannah Jane (Ladd) Jewell of Stratham, N. H. She was a teacher. He was a body-maker in carriage-shop, later automobile factory. Res. Merrimac. Children:

(11) Winifred Frances Jewell 1895
(12) Charles Henry Jewell 1897
(13) Marjorie Laura Jewell 1906

8 MARY FRANCES ROWELL b. Jun. 16, 1870, Merrimacport; m. Aug. 16, 1893 (Rev.) William Benjamin Locke, who was b. Oct. 10, 1867, Bristol, N.H.; d. Sept. 2, 1955. He was son of Reuben B. and Sarah H. (Cass) Locke of Tilton, N. H. She was a teacher. He was a clergyman of the Methodist Church. Res. Derry, N. H. Children:

(14) Judith May Locke 1896
15 MILDRED SARAH LOCKE
b. June 10, 1897; d. Sept. 27, 1897
(16) Mary Reubena Locke 1901
(17) William Rowell Locke 1907

10 JUDITH SARGENT ROWELL b. May 11, 1880, Merrimacport; m. July 30, 1903 (Rev.) James Purman Shook, who was b. Feb. 25, 1877; d. Sept. 11, 1956, Madison, N. J. He was son of William and Emma (Ettinger) Shook of Richmond, Pa. He was a clergyman of the Methodist Church in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. She has been a very active pastor's wife. Children:

18 WILLIAM MARSHALL SHOOK,
b. June 4, 1904, Phila.;
d. Apr. 5, 1911, Hatboro, Pa.

(19) Judith Catherine Shook 1906
(20) Wilbur Rowell Shook 1913
(21) James Purman Shook, Jr. 1923

FOURTH GENERATION

11 WINIFRED FRANCES JEWELL b. Jan. 6, 1895, Merrimac; m. Aug. 4, 1923, (Dr.) George Way Harley who was b. Aug. 8, 1894, Asheville, N. C. He is son of George Gamewell and Lily (Way) Harley. She was teacher and laboratory technician. He is retired physician. They were missionaries of the Methodist Church in Liberia 35 years. Res. Lancaster, Va. Children:

(22) Robert Wilbur Harley 1926
23 CHARLES ALFRED HARLEY
b. Feb. 14, 1928; d. Mar. 7, 1932, Ganta, Liberia.

(24) Eugene Lincoln Harley 1930

12 CHARLES HENRY JEWELL b. Oct. 21, 1897, Merrimac; m. (1) Sept. 11, 1926 Margaret Aimee Ballard, who was b. Mar. 25, 1892; d. July 18, 1951, Providence, R.I. She was dau. of Eckley and Angie (Southland) Ballard of Fryeburg, Me. She was a teacher.
m. (2) Aug. 30, 1952, Margaret Alice Adams, who was b. Oct. 24, 1905; She is dau. of Mark A. and Etta Blanche (Fife) Adams of Lowell. She is a medical technician. He is a chemist in rubber factories, in Rhode Island and Massachusetts. Res. Hingham, Mass. Child:

(25) Malcolm Edwin Jewell 1928

13 MARJORIE LAURA JEWELL b. June 12, 1906, Merrimac; Unmarried. She is a laboratory technician at Harvard Medical School. Res. Cambridge and Hingham.

14 JUDITH MAY LOCKE b. May 24, 1896, Smithtown, N. H.; d. Aug. 16, 1928, Milford (hosp.) m. Apr. 14, 1925 (Dr.) Lewis Ainsley Bennett who was b. Apr. 2, 1900. He is the son of Lewis and Alice (Stevens) Bennett of Lancaster, N. H. She was a business scretary. He is a dentist. Children:

(26) Lewis William Bennett 1926
(27) Mary Evelyn Bennett 1928

16 MARY REUBENA LOCKE b. June 15, 1901, Newfields, N. H.; m. May 28, 1930 (Dr.) L. Ainsley Bennett - see above. She was a teacher. Res. Grafton, Child:

(28) Frances Alice Bennett 1936

17 WILLIAM ROWELL LOCKE (Ph. D) b. Nov. 20, 1907 at Manchester, N. H.; m. Sept. 4, 1934 Charlotte M. Clark, who was b. Sept. 6, 1907. She is dau. of Ralph Everett and Addie (Meloon) Clark of Kittery, Me. She is a laboratory technician and teacher. He is a clergyman and professor. Res. High Point, N. C. Children:

(29) Margaret Jean Locke 1936
(30) Marjorie Sarah Locke 1941

19 JUDITH CATHERINE SHOOK b. July 14, 1906, Cressona, Pa. m. July 14, 1934, Kenneth Thompson who was b. Oct. 31, 1906. He is son of Arthur and Hannah (Eggleston) Thompson of Morristown, N. J. She is a teacher. He is credit manager of a dairy-products company. Res. Mountainside, N. J. Children:

(31) Judith Ann Thompson 1938
(32) Catherine Sargent Thompson 1940

20 WILBUR ROWELL SHOOK b. Mar. 12, 1913, Jenkintown, Pa. m. June 22, 1946 Mary Frost, who was b. Oct. 3, 1918. She is dau. of Frank and Alice (Spencer) Frost of Oak Park, Ill. He is a lawyer and business man. Res. Ridgewood, N. J. Children:

33 NANCY FROST SHOOK
b. July 22, 1947 Ridgewood, N. J.
34 CHRISTINE ROWELL SHOOK
b. July 13, 1950 Ridgewood
35 MARY SARGENT SHOOK
b. May 20, 1954 Ridgewood

21 JAMES PURMAN SHOOK (Jr.) b. Mar. 5, 1923, Philadelphia, Pa.: m. June 6, 1952 Lois Buckingham, who was b. June 20, 1921, Fairfield, Iowa. She is dau. of Joseph James and Laura (Fritz) Buckingham of Batavia, Ia. She is a teacher. He is a civilian engineer with the U.S. Army Engineer Corps. Present res. Okinawa. No children.

FIFTH GENERATION

22 ROBERT WILBUR HARLEY b. May 12, 1926, Ganta, Liberia; m. Sept. 27, 1952, Barbara Bordeaux who was b. Aug. 17, 1929 at Worcester (hosp.) She is dau. of Foster Hazen, and Rosa (Turner) Bordeaux of Millbury. She is a nurse. He is an electronic instrument engineer. Res. Harvard. Children:

36 MARK WAY HARLEY
b. Sept. 13, 1956 in Arlington (hosp.)
37 CAROL FRANCES HARLEY
b. Dec. 4, 1958 in Arlington (hosp.)

24 EUGENE LINCOLN HARLEY (M.D.) b. April 15, 1930, Ganta, Liberia; m. June 26, 1954, Constance Jean Mackey, who was b. Feb. 11, 1927, at Washington, D.C. She is dau. of Bruce and Catherine (Beattie) Mackey of Pittsburgh, Pa. She is a medical technician. He is a physician. Res. Smyrna, Ga. Children:

38 CRAIG GORDON HARLEY
b. Oct. 1, 1959 Vandenburg A.F.B., Cal.
39 SHARON LYNN HARLEY
b. Dec. 12, 1960 Vandenburg A.F.B., Cal.

25 MALCOLM EDWIN JEWELL (Ph.D.) b. Mar. 4, 1928, Woonsocket, R.I.; m. Dec. 23, 1952, Margaret Neal, who was b. Dec. 3, 1926 at Wingate, Ind. She is dau. of Raymond and Genevieve (Cottrell) Neal of Greencastle, Ind. He is a professor of Political Science, and author. Res. Lexington, Ky. Children:

40 DAVID NEAL JEWELL b. Oct. 11, 1954
41 MARILYN ELIZABETH JEWELL b. June 1, 1956
42 LAURA ANN JEWELL b. July 9, 1960

26 LEWIS WILLIAM BENNETT b. Nov. 17, 1926, Milford (hosp.); m. May 5, 1957, Mary Lou Odiseos who was b. Mar. 21, 1929. She is dau. of Gus and Smaro (Constantine) Odiseos of Greenwich, Conn. He is an industrial designer.

Res. Newtown, Conn. Children:

43 DANAE LOUISE BENNETT b. Mar. 8, 1959
44 LEWIS ANDREW BENNETT b. Feb. 7, 1961

27 MARY EVELYN BENNETT b. Aug. 16, 1928, Milford (hosp.); m. June 9, 1956, Warren Scamman, who was b. May 23, 1926. He is son of Henry and Dorothy (Norton) Scamman of Strong, Me. She is a laboratory technician. He is a teacher. Res. Plainfield, Conn. Children:

45 JUDITH LEE SCAMMAN b. Oct. 8, 1960
46 JANE DIANE SCAMMAN b. Mar. 6, 1962

28 FRANCES ALICE BENNETT b. April 20, 1936, Worcester (hosp.); m. Nov. 23, 1962, Frederick Creighton Laing, who was b. May 26, 1928. He is son of James Roy and Grace (Creighton) Laing of Amityville, N. Y. They are both teachers. Res. Amityville, N. Y.

29 MARGARET JEAN LOCKE b. Nov. 12, 1936, Manchester, N.H.; m. Aug. 27, 1957 J. Lawrence McCollough, who was b. Aug. 26, 1935. He is son of Joe W. and Mildred (Day) McCollough of Birmingham, Ala. She is a Director of Religious Education. He is a teacher. Res. Winston-Salem, N. C. Child:

47 LORIN BRADFORD McCOLLOUGH
b. July 31, 1962, Salem, Ore.

30 MARJORIE SARAH LOCKE. b. Sept. 28, 1941, Whitefield, N.H.; m. June 14, 1963 David Robert Brooks, who was b. June 26, 1941. He is son of Robert D., and Gladys (Wiggins) Brooks of Antioch, Ill. She is a teacher. He is a physicist with National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Res. Hampton, Va.

31 JUDITH ANN THOMPSON b. Mar. 8, 1938, Morristown, N.J.; m. Sept. 6, 1958, Wilford Twyman, Jr., who was b. Oct. 20, 1934. He is son of Wilford Twyman, Sr. and Margaret (Oliphant) Twyman of Mountainside, N. J. He is Asst. Manager of a Fish Hatchery. Res. Nashua, N. H. Children:

48 RUSSELL PAGE TWYMAN
b. Jan. 28, 1962, Pittsford, Vt.
49 SANDRA LEE TWYMAN
b. May 20, 1963, Nashua, N. H.

1913

August 16, ~~1923,~~ at Merrimac, Mass.
On the Twentieth Wedding Anniversary of Jewells and Lockes
Includes all living members of the family, and seven Jewells from Stratham.

Back row, left to right: Henry L. Jewell; Myra Jewell; Josephine R. Jewell; Fred L. Jewell; Mary R. Jewell; Judith (Rowell) Shook; Lillian (Bridges) Rowell; J. Purman Shook; Fannie (Currier) Gile; John Sargent Gile.

Middle row, seated: Hannah Jane (Ladd) Jewell; Judith Mehitable (Gile) Rowell; Charles Everett Rowell, holding Wilbur Rowell Shook; Laura Gile (Rowell) Jewell; Everett Lincoln Jewell; Frances (Rowell) Locke; William B. Locke.

Front row, seated: Winifred Frances Jewell; Blanche Jenness; Judith Catherine Shook; Marjorie Laura Jewell; Mary Reubena Locke; William Rowell Locke; Judith May Locke; Charles Henry Jewell.

Insert: Wilbur Everett Rowell, who photographed the group.

DESCENDENTS OF THOMAS AND JUDITH GILE

32 CATHERINE SARGENT THOMPSON b. Mar. 10, 1940 at Plainfield, N.J.; m. Aug. 31, 1963 Robert Crew Weaver who was b. Feb. 20, 1938. He is the son of Karl and Marion (Hanna) Weaver of Zanesville, Ohio. She is an art student. He is a divinity student. Res. Evanston, Ill.

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